

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates  
[Hansard]

**Legislative Assembly**

**THURSDAY, 25 AUGUST 1960**

---

Electronic reproduction of original hardcopy

## THURSDAY, 25 AUGUST, 1960

Mr. SPEAKER (Hon. D. E. Nicholson, Murrumba) took the chair at 11 a.m.

### MEMBER SWORN

Mr. J. BURROWS

Mr. James Burrows, having taken the oath of allegiance and subscribed the roll, took his seat as member for the electoral district of Port Curtis.

### QUESTIONS

#### VOTING AT GENERAL ELECTION, 1960

Mr. LLOYD (Kedron), for Mr. DUGGAN (Toowoomba West—Leader of the Opposition), asked the Premier—

"As the number of valid votes cast for all Government candidates in the 1960 general election was only 43.59 per centum of the total votes cast, and a Liberal-Country Government have been returned for a second term despite the fact that they still remain a minority Government; and, in view of the fact that the Premier and his colleagues had repeatedly promised when in Opposition that when returned as the Government they would take such steps as would ensure that no Government could hold office in Queensland unless they had a majority of the votes of the electors, will he now inform the House whether it is in conformity with his and his Government's present conception of democratic practice that they should hold office notwithstanding that they received 94,763 less votes than non-Government parties and other candidates?"

Hon. G. F. R. NICKLIN (Landsborough) replied—

"It would be interesting to learn the source from which the Leader of the Opposition obtained the figures he quotes. I am officially informed that returns from certain Electorates are not yet complete and some weeks must yet elapse before the Electoral Authorities are in a position to present a full picture of the votes cast for individual candidates and in the separate Electoral divisions. In asking this question the Leader of the Opposition could be likened to Satan reproving sin, as he very conveniently overlooks the result of the 1947 Election when, after being returned with only 43.6 per cent. of the total votes cast, the Labour Government of which he was a Minister had no qualms about remaining in office."

#### LEGAL COSTS, CONSTITUTION (DECLARATION OF RIGHTS) BILL

Mr. LLOYD (Kedron), for Mr. DUGGAN (Toowoomba West—Leader of the Opposition), asked the Premier—

"Will he inform the House what amount was paid by the Government to the southern constitutional lawyer, Dr. Frank

Louat, and to any other legal adviser for services associated with the drafting of the Constitution (Declaration of Rights) Bill, known as the Bill of Rights, which was abandoned by the Government?"

Hon. G. F. R. NICKLIN (Landsborough) replied—

"£1,186."

#### PRICES ADVISORY BOARD

Mr. LLOYD (Kedron), for Mr. DUGGAN (Toowoomba West—Leader of the Opposition), asked the Minister for Justice—

"(1) How many formal meetings of the Prices Advisory Board, constituted under the Prevention of Profiteering Acts Amendment Act of 1957, have taken place since the Board's inception?"

"(2) Has the Board at any time recommended the decontrol of controlled goods? If so, when?"

"(3) Has the Board at any time recommended (a) the recontrol of decontrolled goods and/or (b) that certain goods proposed to be decontrolled be not so decontrolled? If so, what were the relevant circumstances, and what action was taken in respect of the Board's recommendations in each case?"

Hon. A. W. MUNRO (Toowong) replied—

"(1) The Prices Advisory Board, constituted under the Profiteering Prevention Acts Amendment Act of 1957, has held twelve formal meetings, but I should explain that the number of meetings held does not necessarily indicate the extent of the activities of the members. Members of the Board may advise and consult with each other as the circumstances may require."

"(2) and (3) The functions of the Prices Advisory Board are purely consultative and advisory. Under the provisions of Section 26 of the Profiteering Prevention Act of 1948 the Governor in Council, and not the Prices Advisory Board, is the authority which may declare goods or services to be controlled, decontrolled or recontrolled. In this connection I may say that, in carrying out my Ministerial responsibilities, I do not rely upon advice from any one source but rather do I seek skilled advice from all such sources as may be suitable and appropriate to the particular matter. For the further information of the Honourable Member I may mention that on March 6, 1958, I gave a similar Answer to a somewhat similar Question asked by the then Honourable Member for Baroona. On that occasion I also referred to the Answer he had given on March 20, 1957, in relation to the then Queensland Prices Board when he replied to a question in this House in the following terms:—"The Queensland Prices Board Acts in a purely advisory capacity and the Commissioner of Prices is not bound to accept its advice

even though he is the chairman of the Board. The Queensland Prices Board was helpful in the early stages when the control of prices was taken over from the Commonwealth Government, but with the determination of policies, formulae, and target schemes, together with the large number of goods and services decontrolled, its value eventually became negligible.' The Honourable the Leader of the Opposition may possibly recollect that on March 20, 1957, he was a Minister of the then Government in which the then Member for Baroona was Attorney-General."

VALUER-GENERAL'S VALUATIONS

Mr. GAVEN (South Coast) asked the Minister for Public Works and Local Government—

"With reference to the recent valuations now released for both the Gold Coast City Council and the Albert Shire Council,—

(1) What was the charge levied against the Gold Coast City Council by the Valuer-General's Department for valuation of that Local Authority area for the years 1950, 1955, and 1960?

(2) What was the charge levied against the Albert Shire Council by the same Department for the valuation of that local authority area for the years 1950, 1955, and 1960?

(3) Since the Valuer-General's Department began operations, how many local authority areas in Queensland have—(a) Never been valued by the Valuer-General's Department, (b) been valued once, (c) been valued twice, (d) been valued three times?

(4) Is the Valuer-General's Department's valuation the basis of all taxation, or is it used only for the purpose of assessing local authority rates and land tax?

(5) What is the Valuer-General's Department's unimproved valuation of the following cities and towns:—(a) Brisbane, (b) Gold Coast, (c) Toowoomba, (d) Rockhampton, (e) Townsville, (f) Ipswich, (g) Maryborough, (h) Cairns."

Hon. L. H. S. ROBERTS (Whitsunday) replied—

"(1) 1950, £972 4s. 9d. (as from 1950-1951); 1955, £1,799 19s. 1d. (as from 1955-1956); 1960, £2,664 8s. 2d. (as from 1960-1961)."

"(2) 1950, £428 18s. 2d. (as from 1950-1951); 1955, £807 15s. 11d. (as from 1955-1956); 1960, £1,071 9s. (as from 1960-1961)."

"(3) (a) 21; (b) 57; (c) 37; (d) 17. In regard to (a), I would add that during the current financial year, the Valuer-General proposes to undertake the valuation of

seven new shire areas, which will include the shires of Murweh, Tambo, Bowen, Ayr, Mirani, Cook and Bulloo, so that by June 30, 1961, it is anticipated that the number of areas remaining to be valued will be only 14, which comprise all western grazing areas involving only 12,000 valuations in all. Thus by June 30, 1961, out of a total estimated number of valuations of 487,500 when the State is completed, only 12,000 valuations will remain to be completed at that date."

"(4) The answer to this question is contained in Section 25 of the Valuation of Land Acts which I quote hereunder—"The valuation of any land made under this Act shall be—(a) The unimproved value of that land for the purposes of the Land Tax Acts, 1915 to 1952; (b) The rateable value of that land for the purposes of the Local Government Acts, 1936 to 1953; (c) The unimproved value for the purposes of the City of Brisbane Acts, 1924 to 1953; (d) The unimproved value of that land for the purposes of the Rabbit Acts, 1913 to 1950, and where in any provision of any other Act, whether enacted before, on or after the enactment of this section, reference is made to the unimproved value or rateable value of land, that rateable value or unimproved value shall, if there is a subsisting valuation made under this Act of the land in question, be that valuation'."

"(5) It is presumed the information desired is the unimproved rateable valuations and these are set out hereunder, together with the dates from which such valuations were proclaimed in force.

	Total Rateable Unimproved Valuation £	Date of Proclamation
(a) Brisbane	67,899,505	June 30, 1957
(b) Gold Coast	27,729,140	June 30, 1960
(c) Toowoomba	8,488,640	June 30, 1959
(d) Rockhampton	6,641,055	June 30, 1959
(e) Townsville	7,512,842	June 30, 1958
(f) Ipswich	6,459,529	June 30, 1960
(g) Maryborough	2,014,673	June 30, 1959
(h) Cairns	4,359,465	June 30, 1959

PACIFIC HIGHWAY; PALM BEACH AND MERMAID BEACH SECTIONS

Mr. GAVEN (South Coast) asked the Minister for Development, Mines, Main Roads and Electricity—

"With reference to the two extremely dangerous sections of the Pacific Highway in the heavily built-up areas of Palm Beach and Mermaid Beach, both sections being approximately two miles in length,—

(1) Did his Department allocate approximately £68,000 for the purpose of constructing the Palm Beach section almost 12 months ago?

(2) If his reply is in the affirmative, what is the reason that the work has not been undertaken?

(3) Could he inform me when money will be made available to complete the Mermaid Beach section of the Pacific Highway?"

**Hon. E. EVANS** (Mirani) replied—

"(1) An Order in Council authorising the expenditure of £66,017 was published in the Government Gazette on November 22, 1958."

"(2) On September 28, 1959, the Mayor of the City of Gold Coast, Mr. Gaven, M.L.A., and Mr. Cronin, the Engineer, met me in connection with this particular road. Mr. Gaven and the Council representatives requested that the plans be altered and the road be constructed as a divided highway. It was definitely pointed out by the then Commissioner, Mr. Williams, that the Gold Coast City Council would have to bear the increased cost, which was in the vicinity of £10,600, and that the money must be found by the Council by loan and subsidy or from the Council's funds. The Council contended that, in their opinion, the money should be advanced from Main Roads funds and repaid by the Council over a 30-year period. A letter was written by the Main Roads Department, informing the Council that this could not be done under the Main Roads Act and that it would be necessary for the Council to find the money by loan and subsidy or from its own funds. Up to date, no reply has been received from the Gold Coast City Council as to whether this was agreed or otherwise. A further condition was that the Council would prepare the necessary plans. The first section of the plans was received in February, 1960, and the balance on July 28 last. The estimated cost is higher than anticipated and the whole scheme is now being checked and examined to see if costs can be cut. There is nothing on the files to show that the Council has agreed to find the £10,600 by loan money or out of its own funds. If the Council writes the Main Roads Department and states its agreement to the conditions outlined immediate steps will be taken to have the job put under way."

"(3) No."

#### RENTAL HOMES, HOUSING COMMISSION

**Mr. MANN** (Brisbane) asked the Treasurer and Minister for Housing—

"(1) How many homes have been erected for rental by the Queensland Housing Commission during the year commencing July 1, 1959, to June 30, 1960?"

"(2) How many applicants for rental homes are now registered with the Housing Commission?"

"(3) How many houses were erected for rental during the years 1955-1956, 1956-1957, 1957-1958, and 1958-1959?"

**Hon. T. A. HILEY** (Chatsworth) replied—

"(1) Excluding Workers' Dwellings 919 houses were erected by The Queensland Housing Commission in Queensland during the year 1959-1960. Of these 679 were purchased and 240 rented."

"(2) The number of applications on hand for rental accommodation from families facing ejectment or living in unsuitable or condemned premises or in overcrowded conditions or separated owing to lack of accommodation from families facing ejectment or living in unsuitable or condemned premises or in overcrowded conditions or separated owing to lack of accommodation were, at July 31, 1960, 1,260 (1201 at July 31, 1959) in the metropolitan area; at June 30, 1960, 538 (490 at June 30, 1959) in Country centres outside the metropolitan area (country figures at July 31, 1960, not available). In addition there were 981 applications on hand at July 31, 1960 (1,333 at July 31, 1959) in the Metropolitan area and 321 applications at June 30, 1960 (403 at June 30, 1959) in Country centres from families who, although not living in overcrowded conditions, were sharing accommodation with other families. In addition there were 1,703 applications of nil priority on hand at July 31, 1960, in the metropolitan area and 1,183 applications of nil priority at June 30, 1960, in Country centres."

"(3) Excluding Workers' Dwellings for 1955-1956, 1,119 houses were erected of which 283 were purchased and 836 rented; for 1956-1957 1,154 houses were erected of which 365 were purchased and 789 rented; for 1957-1958 808 houses were erected of which 521 were purchased and 287 rented; for 1958-1959, 1,217 houses were erected of which 829 were purchased and 388 rented."

#### MINISTERIAL REFERENCE TO GOLD COAST LANDHOLDERS

**Mr. MANN** (Brisbane) asked the Premier—

"(1) Is he aware of a report in 'The Courier-Mail' of August 2, wherein the Minister for Local Government, Mr. Roberts, is reported as referring to Gold Coast landholders as 'culprits' who had to be 'investigated to ascertain the degree of their guilt' merely because they owned land of appreciating value?"

"(2) If so, does he condone the attitude of his Minister in speaking of law-abiding citizens as 'culprits' who warrant the attention of the Valuer-General in the same way as criminals earn the attention of the C.I.B.?"

"(3) If not, will he take such steps as will eliminate the growing ministerial tendency towards arrogant and contemptuous attitudes to the public?"

**Hon. G. F. R. NICKLIN** (Landsborough) replied—

“(1) I have seen the report referred to by the Honourable Member, but unfortunately, by quoting in his question extracts from the Minister’s statement apart from their context, he has endeavoured to place a wrong construction on what the Minister actually said. This of course is an old political manoeuvre, and, knowing the Honourable Member I am surprised that he should be so naive as to indulge in such a practice.”

“(2 and 3) Never before has Queensland had Ministers more courteous, or more ready to at all times meet the public and receive representations from all sections of the community. Finally, I would suggest to the Honourable Member for Brisbane that if he proposes to assume the mantle of ‘adopted Member’ for the Gold Coast that he take cognisance of the political fate that befell the gentleman who previously took it unto himself to act in that capacity.”

STATE SCHOOL, WULGURU

**Mr. AIKENS** (Townsville South) asked the Minister for Public Works and Local Government—

“(1) Has any financial provision been made for the construction of the proposed new State School at Wulguru this year and, if not, why not?”

“(2) If financial provision has been made, when is it anticipated that construction will commence?”

**Hon. L. H. S. ROBERTS** (Whitsunday) replied—

“(1) Funds are available for the commencement of the construction of the proposed new State School at Wulguru this financial year subject to Executive Council’s approval of the expenditure involved.”

“(2) Plans are in course of preparation but it is not possible at this stage to indicate when construction will commence.”

WEIPA BAUXITE DEPOSITS

**Mr. ADAIR** (Cook) asked the Minister for Development, Mines, Main Roads and Electricity—

“What progress has taken place in regard to the development of bauxite deposits at Weipa and what programme of work does he expect to be carried out in the immediate future?”

**Hon. E. EVANS** (Mirani) replied—

“The company to date has more than met its obligations under the Commonwealth Aluminium Corporation Pty. Limited Agreement Act of 1957. Already some £2,000,000 has been expended. The company is at present investigating at

considerable cost possible sources of adequate power and the establishment of a suitable harbour in proximity to the bauxite. In recent weeks long discussions were held with the company in connection with the dredging of a channel through the bar—which is at present an obstacle to navigation—to gain suitable access to the port. Negotiations are now taking place between the Harbours and Marine Department and the company as to the hiring of a dredge. Members will be aware that the dredging of this channel is the first step towards the eventual erection of an alumina plant.”

TEACHER’S RESIDENCE, MOSSMAN

**Mr. ADAIR** (Cook) asked the Minister for Education and Migration—

“Is it the intention of his Department to have the old, dilapidated teacher’s residence at the Mossman State School replaced with a new residence?”

**Hon. J. C. A. PIZZEY** (Isis) replied—

“The existing residence at Mossman State Rural School will be replaced with a new residence on a new site during the current financial year.”

CASH BALANCES AVAILABLE TO TREASURER, BALANCE, MT. ISA RAILWAY TRUST ACCOUNT

**Mr. LLOYD** (Kedron) asked the Treasurer and Minister for Housing—

“(1) What balances of cash and investments were available to the Treasurer as at June 30, 1960?”

“(2) What balance was held in credit in the Mt. Isa Railway Trust Account as at June 30, 1960?”

**Hon. T. A. HILEY** (Chatsworth) replied—

“(1) The cash balance in the Treasury books at June 30, 1960, was a debit of £4,035,505. However, short term deposits at that time aggregated £7,800,000. Thus, the available cash was £3,764,495. The cost price of investments of Trust and Special Funds and Loan Fund cash at June 30, 1960, amounted to £11,525,509. This figure is exclusive of amounts invested on account of specific Trust and Special Funds.”

“(2) The credit balance in the Mt. Isa Railway Project Fund at June 30, 1960, was £2,589,923.”

VISIT TO JAPAN BY MINISTER FOR LABOUR AND INDUSTRY

**Mr. LLOYD** (Kedron) asked the Minister for Labour and Industry—

“(1) In view of the report that the expense of his recent visit to Japan was met by Tourist Agents, will he inform the House the cost of the tour?”

"(2) Will he explain why the Government thought his trip to Japan of so little importance to the valuable State tourist industry that it allowed him as Minister in Charge to be placed under an obligation to private agents within the industry by following the most unusual and unprecedented procedure of having to meet the expenditure on what normally should be a fact finding tour on behalf of the Government and the industry?"

**Hon. K. J. MORRIS** (Mt. Coot-tha) replied—

"(1) This question is incorrectly based. My issued press statement read, *inter alia*, as follows—The cost of travel to these areas is being borne by travel agents. However, the figure asked for is not available to me."

"(2) I am indeed happy to be able to relieve the Honourable Member's anxiety on this score, as the Government did not think little of this trip, nor am I, nor the Government, under any obligation to anyone, nor was this procedure either unusual or unprecedented. This investigation followed my visit to Thursday Island, as a result of which I had discussions with many people and organisations, because I sought a way to open our Northern door to overseas tourists, thus avoiding Sydney's bottleneck. Many people are willing to work with me towards the objective of extending our tourist industry, and, unlike some Honourable members who constantly decry Queensland's tourist potential, and my work in extending it, they are co-operative and helpful. When I propounded my ideas on this subject it was agreed that the idea was most desirable. I was congratulated on initiating it, and assisted in developing it. Similarly, in November there is to be held a conference of over 2,000 American travel agents in Honolulu. To be present at such a conference will also be extremely valuable to Queensland's tourist industry, and I regard it as a very great honour and privilege to be invited to attend that conference also, and am quite confident that much good again, will accrue to the Queensland tourist industry from it and from my presence thereat. The Honourable Member and his fellow critics should understand that there is also a universal recognition within the tourist industry of the advantage of personal exchange of views in tourist promotion, and it is the recognition of this that caused the policy of what is called courtesy movement, or travel, to be almost universally applied to positive workers in this sphere. If the Honourable Member feels that this assistance should be churlishly rejected in the future due regard will, of course, be paid to his opinion. Surely, even the Honourable Member will agree with me that there can be little pleasure in spending two whole days in an aeroplane, and then interviewing some sixty tourist executives

all within an absence of seven working days. Finally, I want to say that of all people in Queensland, the only knockers to my Tourist developmental work to be found in this State are among Members of the Opposition in this Parliament or their Executive Members who, no doubt, feel quite mistakenly that they can score politically by so doing."

#### INQUIRY INTO SUPPLY OF HOUSES AND FLATS

**Mr. HANLON** (Baroona) asked the Treasurer and Minister for Housing—

"In view of his reply to me on August 11, 1959, that the measurement of his Government's estimate of the current lag in the supply of houses and flats in this State was at that time the subject of examination by the officers of his Department and the Commonwealth Department of National Development, and his further reply on February 25, 1960, that a final determination had not then been made for release, is he in a position yet to provide those figures for the information of Parliament and the public?"

**Hon. T. A. HILEY** (Chatsworth) replied—

"The Report of the Department of National Development published in January, 1960, but only received this month states that a substantial measure of agreement was reached on the methods of analysis adopted by the Commonwealth and the States of Victoria and Queensland. However, whilst agreement has been reached on the method, we have not received their reassessment of the housing need. But nothing has emerged which materially alters the figure of current new housing need as approximately 8,000 new houses and flats annually. For the twelve months ended 30th June last we have received a figure of 9,980 houses and flats completed. This confirms the view which I so frequently expressed that Queensland was steadily improving its housing situation. And this improvement is further confirmed by experience in the Housing Commission itself. Very few applications are received which can truly be described as desperate and such are usually quickly accommodated. There is a great unsatisfied number of applicants whose conditions can be described as difficult but not desperate. A high percentage of these applications are based on the desire to secure the lower level of rentals which are charged for Commission houses.

"The distinct improvement over last year should not lull honourable members into a sense of false security. A study of birth records suggests that we can expect a surge of new marriages about the middle 1960's. This will sharply increase housing demand and my hope is that we will

succeed in repeating last year's improvement in each intervening year so that the State will be prepared for the expected surge in housing demand from 1965 onwards."

#### GOVERNMENT ATTITUDE TO 35-HOUR WEEK

**Mr. HANLON** (Baroona) asked the Premier—

"(1) Was his Government's representative, Mr. R. H. Tait, before the Coal Industry Tribunal (Mr. Justice Gallagher) in Sydney correctly reported in 'The Courier-Mail' of July 26, 1960, as saying that the Queensland Government was only interested in seeing what direct and indirect effect a 35-hour week would have on industry generally?"

"(2) If so, and if that statement correctly reflects his Government's attitude, why did the Government find it necessary to oppose the application, which related only to the coal industry, rather than merely be in appearance at the hearing?"

"(3) If his Government based its opposition to the claim on the grounds that it is considered to be a test case for workers in other industries will the Government, in the event of the claim being granted, abide by the decision and support other Unions in similar claims for their industries?"

**Hon. G. F. R. NICKLIN** (Landsborough) replied—

"(1, 2 and 3) For the information of the hon. member, I quote an extract from the official transcript of the proceedings before the Coal Industry Tribunal at Sydney on Monday, July 25, 1960—

'Mr. Tait: So far as the State of Queensland is concerned, Mr. Chairman, we can see that this application will have a direct effect on the coal mining industry and also an indirect effect on applications for variation of hours worked in industry generally. We feel that this is so because of certain statements that have been made in broadcasts and also because the statement has been made that this application is more or less being treated by unions outside the coal mining industry as a test case.'

'The Chairman: But what is your attitude, Mr. Tait?'

'Mr. Tait: We are opposing the application.'

#### MACKAY ABATTOIR BOARD

**Mr. GRAHAM** (Mackay) asked the Minister for Agriculture and Forestry—

"In view of the public concern that exists in Mackay over the failure of the

Mackay Abattoir Board to fulfil its purpose, will he give consideration to abolition of the present Board and the immediate creation of a new Board?"

**Hon. O. O. MADSEN** (Warwick) replied—

"It is known that the Mackay District Abattoir Board has been conducting negotiations concerning the erection of a District Abattoir at Mackay. The Board has recently been requested to advise as to the results of these negotiations. I believe that any delay in the establishment of a District Abattoir has been caused only by the desire of the Mackay District Abattoir Board to do what it considers is in the best interests, both of the Mackay consumers, and of the development of the cattle industry in the Mackay and adjoining areas."

#### RAW SUGAR HAULIERS, MACKAY DISTRICT

**Mr. GRAHAM** (Mackay) asked the Minister for Transport—

"Under what terms and conditions are the hauliers of raw sugar from the following Sugar Mills, operating—(a) Amalgamated Sugar Mill, Pleystowe; (b) Racecourse Sugar Milling Co., Racecourse; and (c) Farleigh Sugar Mill Pty. Ltd., Farleigh?"

**Hon. G. W. W. CHALK** (Lockyer) replied—

"Each of the three mills concerned has been issued with a Permit (Form 5) under 'The State Transport Facilities Acts,' which authorises operations under the manifest system. The Permits issue on an annual basis and the current permits expire as follows:—Amalgamated Sugar Mills, May 31, 1961; Racecourse Sugar Milling Company, June 30, 1961; Farleigh Sugar Mill Pty. Ltd., June 30, 1961. Permit fees at the rate of threepence (3d.) per ton mile are payable monthly on the weight of raw sugar carried."

#### SENILE ANNEXE, MACKAY BASE HOSPITAL

**Mr. GRAHAM** (Mackay) asked the Minister for Health and Home Affairs—

"Will he give consideration to the establishment of a Senile Annexe at the Mackay Base Hospital?"

**Hon. H. W. NOBLE** (Yeronga) replied—

"The Mackay Hospital Board has recently opened a new General Ward Block of 52 beds. With the new Ward Block the existing accommodation should be sufficient to take care of such aged, chronic or senile cases in the Board's area as may require hospital treatment and the completion of the new Out-Patients' Block will release further accommodation in the existing Hospital. Provision of a Senile Annexe is not contemplated at the present time."

## STATE SCHOOL, NORTH BOOVAL

**Mr. DONALD** (Ipswich East) asked the Minister for Education and Migration—

“Is he in a position to advise when building operations will commence on the proposed new State School at North Booval? If so, will he announce the date?”

**Hon. J. C. A. PIZZEY** (Isis) replied—

“As it is unlikely that the proposed new school building at North Booval will be erected during this financial year, the commencing date for building operations is not yet available.”

## INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES AT SUNRISE AND CORNWALL COLLIERIES; POLICE COSTS

**Mr. DONALD** (Ipswich East) asked the Minister for Labour and Industry—

“(1) What was the cost involved in maintaining members of the Police Force adjacent to the Sunrise and Cornwall Collieries, during the recent industrial dispute?”

“(2) What portion of the cost, if any, was met by the Colliery Company?”

**Hon. K. J. MORRIS** (Mt. Coot-tha) replied—

“(1) Total cost for salaries, week-end allowance and special services payment was £385 18s. 5d.”

“(2) £55 6s. special services payment.”

## BRANDON STATE SCHOOL

**Mr. COBURN** (Burdekin) asked the Minister for Public Works and Local Government—

“When is it anticipated that work will be commenced on the classroom, staff room, medical services room and library approved for the Brandon State School?”

**Hon. L. H. S. ROBERTS** (Whitsunday) replied—

“Plans are in course of preparation for the additions proposed to be made to the Brandon State School. Subject to Executive Council's approval of the expenditure involved the work will be commenced as soon as labour and materials are available. It is not possible at this stage to indicate when the construction will commence.”

## DEVELOPMENT OF CATTLE INDUSTRY, FAR NORTHERN QUEENSLAND

**Mr. WALLACE** (Cairns) asked the Minister for Agriculture and Forestry—

“(1) What is the number of cattle producing properties in the area bounded by a line drawn from the southern point of Mourilyan Harbour to the western side of Karumba?”

“(2) What is (a) the cattle population in the area named, (b) the turn-off annually over the last five years, and (c) the estimated turn-off for the ensuing five years?”

“(3) How many of these cattle were turned off for: (a) export, and (b) local consumption?”

“(4) What were the number of carcasses reaching 1st, 2nd and 3rd grade classifications?”

“(5) How many, if any, of the properties have made provision by way of ensilage or hay for drought or semi-drought periods?”

“(6) What was the number of cattle transported from the area during the period (a) by sea, (b) by road train, and (c) by droving plant?”

“(7) In view of the publicity given to the potential of the area in respect of development and the populating of Far Northern Queensland as the result of Government policy in relation to the beef industry has there been any new ground broken by applications from companies or individuals for leases of large areas of Crown land in the area? If so, how many, and by whom?”

**Hon. O. O. MADSEN** (Warwick) replied—

“In view of the comprehensive nature of the Question asked by the Honourable Member, it is not possible to provide an answer today. However, the information is being sought and will be conveyed as soon as possible. Section 7 of the Question will be referred to the Honourable the Minister for Public Lands and Irrigation.”

## BEDS AND WARDSMEN, PRINCESS ALEXANDRA AND BRISBANE GENERAL HOSPITALS

**Mr. BENNETT** (South Brisbane) asked the Minister for Health and Home Affairs—

“(1) What is the number of beds available for patients at the Princess Alexandra and the Brisbane General Hospitals, respectively?”

“(2) What number of beds are now occupied (a) public (b) intermediate and (c) sub-intermediate?”

“(3) What number of wardsmen were employed at the abovementioned hospitals for the years 1957, 1958, 1959 and 1960?”

**Hon. H. W. NOBLE** (Yeronga) replied—

“(1) Princess Alexandra Hospital, 1083; Brisbane General Hospital, 987. At the present time three wards of 104 beds at the Princess Alexandra Hospital and two wards of 83 beds at the Brisbane General Hospital are being remodelled and renovated and have been excluded from the figures of beds available.”

“(2) Princess Alexandra Hospital—(a) Public, 890; (b) Intermediate, 174; and (c) Sub-Intermediate, 30. Brisbane General Hospital—(a) Public, 873; (b) Intermediate, 46; and (c) Sub-Intermediate, 7.”

“(3) Princess Alexandra Hospital—140 in 1957; 143 in 1958; 143 in 1959 and 152 in 1960. Brisbane General Hospital—223 in 1957; 223 in 1958; 218 in 1959 and 210 in 1960.”

MANLY BOAT HARBOUR

Mr. GUNN (Wynnum) asked the Treasurer and Minister for Housing—

“(1) What is the expenditure to date on the construction of the Manly boat harbour?”

“(2) What is the approximate date for the completion of the first section?”

“(3) What are the proposed rentals for mooring pens of various dimensions?”

Hon. T. A. HILEY (Chatsworth) replied—

“(1) £70,325 to July 31, 1960.”

“(2) End of August, 1960.”

“(3) Proposed rentals have not yet been finalised.”

HOUSING COMMISSION RENTAL HOMES, WYNNUM-MANLY AREA

Mr. GUNN (Wynnum) asked the Treasurer and Minister for Housing—

“(1) In view of the acute shortage of houses within the Wynnum-Manly districts, will he give early consideration to the acquisition of additional land for the construction of State rental houses to meet the requirements of the many applicants awaiting homes on a rental basis?”

“(2) How many houses were built by the Commission within the Wynnum-Manly area for the years 1957, 1958, 1959 and 1960 for purchase and rental respectively?”

Hon. T. A. HILEY (Chatsworth) replied—

“(1) On June 16, 1960, 22 developed allotments at Wynnum North were acquired and of those 17 have been selected and applications signed for the erection of houses for purchase. On June 2, 1960, approval was given to the acquisition of 79 sites at Manly and arrangements for transfer of this land to the Commission are now being made by the Public Curator. A house of normal size, features and fittings may be purchased on a deposit as low as £250. In view of this it is considered that houses should be available for purchase and if not sold for rental.”

“(2) Houses erected during the four years were available for purchase and if not sold for rental—

	Purchase	Rental	Total
1956-1957 ..	7	1	8
1957-1958 ..	1	—	1
1958-1959 ..	40	—	40
1959-1960 ..	13	—	13

In addition workers' dwellings were erected—1956-1957, 13; 1957-1958, 20; 1958-1959, 8; 1959-1960, 8.”

EXTENSION OF TREATMENT HOURS, ROCKHAMPTON DENTAL CLINIC

Mr. THACKERAY (Rockhampton North) asked the Minister for Health and Home Affairs—

“In view of the fact that there is a waiting list for dental treatment at the Rockhampton Dental Clinic, up to nine months in some cases and taking into consideration the number of workers who work the same hours as the Clinic and the loss in pay incurred by the workers in keeping the appointments, will he give favourable consideration to allowing the Rockhampton Dental Clinic to open certain nights each week, the same as the Brisbane Dental Clinic, to overcome the lag and hardship imposed on the people?”

Hon. H. W. NOBLE (Yeronga) replied—

“I have not received any recent request from the Rockhampton Hospitals Board for the working of evening sessions at the Rockhampton Dental Clinic. The Hospitals Board has a method of classifying patients so that priority is given to those in the lower income groups, such as pensioners, and any persons waiting treatment would be those in the higher income brackets coming within the over-all Means Test applying to treatment in Dental Clinics.”

EXTENSION OF MT. ISA RAILWAY LINE TO CAMOOWEAL

Mr. INCH (Burke) asked the Minister for Transport—

“(1) In view of the relaying of the railway between Richmond and Duchess in the rehabilitation scheme of the Mt. Isa railway line, will he give consideration to utilising the old rails for the purpose of extending the railway from Mt. Isa through to Camooweal, or from Dajarra to Camooweal to open up potential mineral fields and provide greater access for the pastoral industry in that area?”

“(2) Is he prepared to have this proposal made the subject of an immediate Departmental investigation?”

Hon. G. W. W. CHALK (Lockyer) replied—

“(1 and 2) The matter referred to by the Honourable Member was brought to my notice on behalf of the Mt. Isa Branch of the Australian Country Party about eighteen months ago, following which I made certain enquiries and then ascertained that the rails to be lifted between Richmond and Duchess are very old and of only 4½lb. section. They would not be suitable for use in the construction of new railways.”

## MAINTENANCE, DIAMANTINA HOSPITAL

**Mr. BROMLEY** (Norman) asked the Minister for Health and Home Affairs—

“What moneys, if any, will be allocated this year to the upkeep and repairs of the Diamantina Hospital, now known as S Wards, Princess Alexandra Hospital?”

**Hon. H. W. NOBLE** (Yeronga) replied—  
“£40,000.”

## Mr. SPEAKER'S RULING

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! Hon. members, I do not think there should be any necessity for me to remind you that question time is a very important time in this House. Any cross-firing in the Chamber when a question is being asked, or replied to, will not be tolerated.

## PAPERS

The following paper was laid on the table, and ordered to be printed:—

Report of the Public Accountants Registration Board of Queensland for the year 1959-1960.

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Orders in Council under the Magistrates Courts Acts, 1921 to 1954.

Orders in Council under the Criminal Code.

Orders in Council under the Companies Acts, 1931 to 1955.

Proclamations under the Charitable Collections Act of 1952.

Proclamations under the Prisons Act of 1958.

Regulations under the Art Union Regulation Acts, 1931 to 1956.

Regulations under the Companies Acts, 1931 to 1955.

Regulations under the Auctioneers and Commission Agents Acts, 1922 to 1953.

Regulations under the Trust Accounts Acts, 1923 to 1959.

Orders in Council under the Water Acts, 1926 to 1957.

Orders in Council under the River Improvement Trust Acts, 1940 to 1959.

Orders in Council under the Stock Routes and Rural Lands Protection Acts, 1944 to 1951.

Orders in Council under the Barrier Fences Act of 1954.

Regulations under the Irrigation Acts, 1922 to 1959.

Regulations under the Stock Routes and Rural Lands Protection Acts, 1944 to 1951.

## SITTING DAYS

**Hon. G. F. R. NICKLIN** (Landsborough—Premier): I move—

“That, unless otherwise ordered, the House will meet for the despatch of business at 11 o'clock a.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday in each week, and that on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and after 2 o'clock p.m. on Thursdays, Government business shall take precedence of all other business.”

Motion agreed to.

## STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

## APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS

**Hon. G. F. R. NICKLIN** (Landsborough—Premier): I move—

“That the Standing Orders Committee for the present session consist of the following members—

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Duggan, Mr. Lloyd, Mr. Munro, Mr. Nicklin, Mr. Taylor and Mr. Walsh.”

Motion agreed to.

## PRINTING COMMITTEE

## APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS

**Hon. G. F. R. NICKLIN** (Landsborough—Premier): I move—

“That a Select Committee be appointed to assist Mr. Speaker in all matters which relate to the printing to be executed by order of the House, and for the purpose of selecting and arranging for printing returns and papers presented in pursuance of motions made by members;

“That such Committee consist of the following members: Mr. Speaker, Mr. Bjelke-Petersen, Mr. Campbell, Mr. Dufficy, Mr. Graham, Mr. Smith and Mr. Wallace.”

Motion agreed to.

## CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES

## APPOINTMENT OF MR. H. B. TAYLOR

**Hon. G. F. R. NICKLIN** (Landsborough—Premier): I move—

“That Mr. Harold Bourne Taylor be appointed Chairman of Committees of the Whole House.”

Motion agreed to.

## SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

## TEMPORARY CONSTITUTION OF COMMITTEES OF SUPPLY AND WAYS AND MEANS

## APPROPRIATION BILL NO. 1.

**Hon. G. F. R. NICKLIN** (Landsborough—Premier): I move—

“That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as would otherwise prevent the constitution of Committees of Supply

and Ways and Means, the receiving of Resolutions on the same day as they shall have passed in those Committees, and the passing of an Appropriation Bill through all its stages in one day."

Motion agreed to.

#### OVERTIME PAID IN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

##### ORDER FOR RETURN

**Mr. MELLOY** (Nudgee): I move—

"That there be laid upon the table of the House a return showing the amount of overtime paid in each Government department (all funds) in 1959-1960."

Motion agreed to.

#### VOTING AT STATE ELECTIONS

##### ORDER FOR RETURN

**Mr. SHERRINGTON** (Salisbury): I move—

"That there be laid upon the table of the House a return in the usual form, giving details of the voting at the State general election on 28 May, 1960, and the Mulgrave election on 23 July, 1960."

Motion agreed to.

#### MINISTERIAL EXPENSES

##### ORDER FOR RETURN

**Mr. BROMLEY** (Norman): I move—

"That there be laid upon the table of the House a return, in the usual form, of expenses of Ministers for each month from 1 July, 1959, to 30 June, 1960, inclusive, showing each separately and in detail."

Motion agreed to.

#### LIBRARY, REFRESHMENT ROOMS, AND PARLIAMENTARY BUILDINGS COMMITTEES

##### APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS

**Hon. G. F. R. NICKLIN** (Landsborough—Premier) (11.56 a.m.): I move—

"That the Library, Refreshment Rooms, and Parliamentary Buildings Committees for the present session be constituted as follows:—

Library: Mr. Speaker, Mr. Dean, Mr. Donald, Mr. Ewan, Mr. Houston, Mr. Ramsden and Mr. Tooth.

Refreshment Rooms: Mr. Speaker, Dr. Delamothe, Mr. Lonergan, Mr. Mann, Mr. Marsden, Mr. Richter and Mr. Thackeray.

Parliamentary Buildings: Mr. Speaker, Mr. Hanlon, Mr. Hewitt, Mr. Hodges, Mr. Hooper, Mr. Newton and Mr. Sherrington."

**Mr. AIKENS** (Townsville South) (11.57 a.m.): I called "Not formal" to this motion merely so that I could expose some of the slobbering hypocrisy that we hear in this House from time to time. We had quite a deal of it on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week, some from the hon. member for Windsor and some by way of interjection, even from the Premier. If I may use a favourite phrase of the Leader of the Opposition, we know that the appointment of these committees is purely and simply political claptrap. We know they are a farce and a sham, that they never meet and never serve any useful function. In any case, if they make a decision by some strange means or other, the Government decide whether or not the decision will be implemented.

I rise to comment also on the tender concern expressed by a number of hon. members on Tuesday and Wednesday about the rights of political minorities, and assurances that the rights and privileges of those minorities in this Chamber would always be guarded and protected. As a matter of fact, I think I am right in saying that the Premier once said on the subject that the rights and privileges of political minorities would be taken from them only over his dead body.

Naturally, Mr. Speaker, on these three committees you take an honourable place. I have no objection to that. I assume also that you will be their chairman if they ever foregather or meet. But, of the other 18 private members of Parliament nominated for these three committees, only the hon. member for Brisbane has longer service in the House than I. The other 17 are relatively new in this Chamber. Compared with me, most of them are veritable babes in arms.

**Honourable Members** interjected.

**Mr. AIKENS:** Although they have not the infantile and juvenile mentality of some of those who have interjected, that is the position. I should say that among the private members of the Assembly not six have longer service than I, so that on the basis of parliamentary seniority alone, if the rights and privileges of political minorities are to be preserved and protected, I should in all courtesy at least have been afforded the opportunity of rejecting one of these positions.

**Mr. Mann:** They are elected on suitability.

**Mr. AIKENS:** If they were elected on suitability the hon. member for Brisbane would not be nominated, because as a mental no-hoper he would take the palm in any company.

I know I am a little out of order in saying it, but I point out that I was not mentioned for the panel of Temporary Chairmen of Committees, or for the Standing Orders Committee, or for any of the other flim-flams that we go through at the opening of every Parliament.

On the score of ability, I am modest enough to say that I claim I am no better or worse than any other hon. member.

**Mr. Mann:** You are not suitable.

**Mr. AIKENS:** I hope I never reach the mental stage that the hon member for Brisbane reached many, many years ago—and he has degenerated to a remarkable and distressing degree ever since.

When we talk about protecting the political minorities, we see that the members of the Queensland Labour Party, four in number, have been provided with a secretary. I have no objection to that, of course, but what about the three eminent representatives in the little cubbyhole behind the stairs, where the hon. member for Redcliffe, the hon. member for Burdekin and I are? We have not been given any special privileges. We are packed in there like sardines in a tin. We have not a secretary of our own. The Leader of the Opposition has been offered, I understand, a late model Holden motor-car but he will not take it. He wants a Custom-line, a Ford, or a Chevrolet, or something or other. He wants one of the big models.

We find it with every Government. The Government to which the hon. member for Brisbane belonged was just as bad. As a matter of fact, they were worse. They used to rebuff us in a coarse, crude, and sometimes obscene way. We are rebuffed by this Government just as harshly, but at least in a more Chesterfieldian manner, if I might say so. That is the only difference between the two Governments. There is no difference in effect; simply a difference in the approach.

I thought I should rise to let you know what I think of your slobbering hypocrisy, and how it nauseates me and is anathema to me.

**Mr. Walsh:** After your appeal, one of them may withdraw in your favour.

**Mr. AIKENS:** I would not take the job but I think I should have been offered the courtesy of being given the opportunity to refuse it. The hon. member for Bundaberg should be the last to talk about privileges, because he grossly abused a wonderful privilege the other day. If the members of the Government, and the members of the A.L.P. who claim to hate him so much, had wanted to stop him the other day, they could have stopped him. If I had wanted to stop him I would have stopped him. But, no, you had neither the intelligence nor the guts to do it.

**Mr. Mann:** We did not want to stop him.

**Mr. AIKENS:** Of course you did.

**Mr. Mann:** And we do not want to stop you either.

**Mr. AIKENS:** The hon. member could not. We used to be quite overcome at the tender affection exhibited between the hon. member

for Brisbane and the hon member for Bundaberg. They were great pals in those halcyon days of the proud and arrogant Labour Party, they were bosom pals. It was touching to see them as they walked along the corridors of the House arm in arm. As they stepped up to the bar one would hear, "How are you, Johnno, old boy?" "I'm fine, Ted, old chap." "Will you come for a spot with me, Johnno, old boy?" "Delighted, Ted, old boy." That was, of course, until they fell out on the Santamaria issue. Now they have no words in their vocabularies foul enough, or contemptuous enough, for each other. We who have been here through the passage of the years remember when their friendliness was so close-knit that we never thought it would be separated, or torn asunder. But it was. Now the hon. member for Brisbane says he would not have stopped "Big Ted" on Tuesday. He would have done anything if he had the know-how or the guts, but he lacks them both.

**Mr. Mann:** I won't stop you, either.

**Mr. AIKENS:** I just draw the attention of the House to this, because there are some misguided people who read "Hansard": Once again we have seen these expressions of slobbering hypocrisy. I have said once before that the suppression of political minorities is the first step towards totalitarianism. I will not be suppressed in this House. That is why I rose to my feet.

**Mr. Walsh:** Will you read all this out at the "Regent" in Townsville?

**Mr. AIKENS:** I do not read things out at the "Regent." Fancy the hon. member walking into that! I do not read things at the "Regent," but documents will still be in the possession of the Premier's Department covering the occasion when the Hanlon Government sent Detective Senior Sergeant Cronau, now Inspector Cronau, with five police shorthand-writers, to one of my famous meetings in the "Regent," and they took down in detail all I said to the people there. Much of it was about the hon. member for Bundaberg. They sent it down—17 pages of foolscap—here to the then Premier. It will still be in the Premier's Department. I make the same appeal to the present Premier as I made to Mr. Hanlon and Mr. Gair—to lay that police report on the table of the House. He will have to handle it with asbestos tongs, I know. I deliberately set myself out to provoke an action for defamation, but they did not have the guts to take me on and lay the report on the table of the House. That is all I wanted them to do.

**Mr. Walsh:** I never saw the report!

**Mr. AIKENS:** Of course the hon. member is in it. I will not continue any longer, Mr. Speaker, I thank you for your tolerance and broad-mindedness. I merely wanted to

point out how sickening and nauseating I regard all this flim-flam and hypocrisy that we hear from time to time about the desire of the Government to protect the rights and privileges of political minorities.

**Hon. G. F. R. NICKLIN** (Landsborough—Premier) (12.6 p.m.), in reply: Hon. members in this Chamber are used to the exhibitions and tactics that the hon. member for Townsville South engages in from time to time. If he knew anything about the forms and procedures of the House, he would know that the motion under consideration is one to which it would be competent for any hon. member to make an alteration if he so desired. The appointment of these committees is not an appointment by the Government; it is not an appointment by the Opposition; it is not an appointment by any particular party in the House. The appointments are made by the House on the recommendations submitted to the House and it is competent for any hon. member, if he so desires, to move an amendment to those recommendations. If the hon. member for Townsville South is not happy with the recommendations placed before hon. members—

**Mr. Aikens:** I am quite happy. I have never in my life seen a bigger collection of "dills" on one sheet of paper.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr. NICKLIN:** Mr. Speaker, I draw your attention to the remark of the hon. member, in which he referred to hon. members of this Chamber as a collection of "dills."

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order! The hon. member for Townsville South has been in the Chamber long enough to know that it is unparliamentary to use such language or to refer to hon. members by such a term, and I ask him to withdraw it.

**Mr. Aikens:** I withdraw it.

**Mr. NICKLIN:** As I say, if the hon. member had wished to make an alteration to the recommendations now being considered, his proper procedure would have been to move an amendment accordingly. Then other hon. members would have had the opportunity to have a say. The committees are House committees and the prerogative of appointment is the equal responsibility of every hon. member. Obviously the hon. member for Townsville South would not be competent to serve on any one of them because he has no idea of their activities. That is borne out by his assertion that they never meet. Did you ever hear such an absurd statement? The committees under discussion meet frequently.

**Mr. Aikens:** Some of the members do not know which committee they are on.

**Mr. NICKLIN:** They do know, and I suggest that the various committees carry out all their functions very satisfactorily.

Motion (Mr. Nicklin) agreed to.

## SUPPLY

VOTE OF CREDIT—£53,000,000

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR

**Mr. SPEAKER** read a message from His Excellency the Governor recommending that the following provision be made on account of the services for the year ending 30th June, 1961—

"From the Consolidated Revenue Fund of Queensland (exclusive of the moneys standing to the credit of the Loan Fund Account) the sum of £25,000,000;

"From the Trust and Special Funds the sum of £18,000,000; and

"From the moneys standing to the credit of the Loan Fund Account the sum of £10,000,000."

## COMMITTEE

(The Chairman of Committees, Mr. Taylor, Clayfield, in the chair.)

**The CHAIRMAN:** Before calling upon the Treasurer to introduce Supply, I should like first to thank the Premier for again nominating me for the position of Chairman of Committees, and all hon. members for endorsing the nomination.

After the first session of the last Parliament, the Premier paid me a tribute that has been the standard to which I tried to work during the succeeding two sessions, and that I shall try to maintain in this Parliament. For the information of hon. members, I quote that tribute, which was published in the "Brisbane Telegraph" of 11 December, 1957—

"Mr. Taylor set a very high standard in his role of arbiter. He held the balance with impeccable fairness, and was very properly commended for his impartiality by members on both sides of the House."

To help me maintain that impartiality in this Parliament, I will not speak from the floor of the House on any matter that could be considered a matter of Party business, nor will I attend any joint Party meeting where legislation is proposed.

There is another matter to which I wish to refer. On Tuesday last the hon. member for Bundaberg criticised my actions in one or two directions. First he said I was too lenient, or at times may have been too lenient. I would point out that over a long military life I have learnt something of discipline, and if I exercise discipline in this Chamber it will be the discipline that I understand—discipline tempered with understanding and justice.

**Honourable Members:** Hear, hear!

**The CHAIRMAN:** The other matter to which the hon. member for Bundaberg referred was the occasion when an hon. member brought into this House a wireless set, something that was commented upon by the Press the next morning. I should like

hon. members to know that, as I said on that occasion, when I do not see or hear a disorderly action or a disorderly word and my attention is not drawn to it by any other hon. member but is noticed by the Press, who sit above me and look down on hon. members and see their actions, I will ask that hon. member if the report in the Press is true, as I did on that occasion, and if he admits it is true and it is disorderly conduct, I will ask him to withdraw it.

**Honourable Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. T. A. HILEY:** (Chatsworth—Treasurer and Minister for Housing) (12.14 p.m.): I move—

“That there be granted to Her Majesty, on account, for the service of the year 1960-1961 a further sum not exceeding £53,000,000 towards defraying the expenses of the various departments and services of the State.”

In presenting the motion to the Committee, as this is the first sitting of a new Parliament with a considerable number of new members, I think I should make a brief survey of the historical purpose of appropriation and the peculiar part that it plays in our Parliamentary system.

I think it will be well known and recognised that only Parliament makes the law, that only the courts interpret the law, and that Cabinet is the Government's executive body to administer the law and conduct the affairs of the country. I ask hon. members to observe that, when Parliament allows the Government's executive body to administer the law and conduct the affairs of the country, Parliament retains to itself an absolute control over the power of expenditure, and it does so by the process of appropriation. That is the reason for the Bill. New hon. members might well wonder why it is necessary. In answer to a question this morning, I indicated that the State had a net cash balance of roughly £3,750,000 at 30 June, 1960, and it was getting revenue in each day. There is no suggestion that there is no money available in the bank. The essential feature is that no Government can use that money without appropriation first being made by Parliament.

The main appropriation is covered by annual Estimates, which, in Queensland, are brought down usually in late September. They are examined in detail over a period of several weeks and then made the subject of an Appropriation Bill late in November. That Appropriation Bill sets out, first of all, to cover the estimated needs up to the following 30 June. It also tidies up any of the unforeseen expenses that have arisen in the interim, and sets out to provide an amount that is calculated to provide for the needs of roughly eight weeks of the following year. That eight weeks' need is always tightly calculated. The purpose of limiting the period to about

two months and calculating the need tightly is to ensure that there can be no delay by the Government in convening Parliament and giving their Parliamentary masters an opportunity to determine whether, by the process of further Supply, Parliament is prepared to endorse their actions. One of the first steps in each new Parliament or in each new session of Parliament, is to again seek supply to cover the period from about the end of August until about the end of November when Parliament, having dealt with the Estimates, is in a position to again pass the main Supply Bill of the year. Once again, care is taken that that amount is tightly calculated because the whole purpose of Parliamentary control over the Government through appropriation would be lost if Parliament were to allow Governments to have Supply in excessive amounts and to allow them to go on and on in their executive powers without being brought sharply to task because of the exhaustion of appropriated funds.

I remind the Committee that in 1957 we saw the exercise of the limited amount of Supply used as an instrument to determine the life of the Government then in office. Indeed, to illustrate the tightness with which interim appropriations are calculated, I point out that on that occasion the State elections were held on 3 August, and, as Supply had been refused beyond the end of August, fresh Supply was granted by the new Parliament only after a very hurried convening. Supply was granted only about two or three days before the appropriation was exhausted. Had anything gone awry physically in that short period, goodness knows how this State's public servants would have been paid. On that occasion, two or three days lost would have provoked a crisis.

**Mr. Walsh:** You were warned about that at the time.

**Mr. HILEY:** The hon. member's Party was warned and they paid the penalty.

Because the purpose of the Bill is to secure further Supply for the Government, the Supply debate is not confined to details of arithmetic of need. This is one of the few debates that are unlimited in their subject matter. The debate on this measure is usually confined to the Committee stage and is exhausted in a single day.

As hon. members are aware, the final Appropriation Act for 1959-1960 also included a Vote on Account for 1960-1961 that was calculated to take us up to about the end of this month. The supply granted was from the Consolidated Revenue Fund £16,000,000, Trust and Special Funds, £12,000,000, and the Loan Fund £4,000,000. It is now necessary, in accordance with the procedure that I outlined, to appropriate further moneys to cover expenditure on governmental services until the passing of the Estimates and the final Appropriation Bill for 1960-1961.

Approval is accordingly sought in the Bill for a further £53,000,000, made up as follows:—Consolidated Revenue Fund £25,000,000, Trust and Special Funds £18,000,000 and Loan Fund £10,000,000. The total amount being made available for 1960-1961 to enable the Government to carry on pending the passing of a final Appropriation Bill in late November, or early December, will be: Consolidated Revenue Fund £41,000,000, Trust and Special Funds £30,000,000 and Loan Fund £14,000,000.

The aggregate of £85,000,000 compares with a total of £80,000,000 granted for 1959-1960. The increase has been caused by greater costs that are likely to be incurred by the Government through higher salaries and wages, higher prices brought about by wages margins, which are yet to be determined by the Industrial Court, and expenditure on the rehabilitation of the Mt. Isa railway.

The increases have been allocated in this way: £2,000,000 from Consolidated Revenue Fund, £2,000,000 from Trust and Special Funds and £1,000,000 from Loan Fund Account.

I referred to the cost of margins yet to be determined by the court—and those already determined—as one of the reasons for the increase in the amount being sought. It has been estimated that it will cost the Consolidated Revenue Fund alone something in excess of £3,500,000. It follows that if our funds were static—and they are not static; that is obvious from the proposal to increase our rate of expenditure—the simple effect of the marginal increases would be that the Consolidated Revenue Fund would be able to employ roughly 3,500 fewer men for the same money, that is, taking about £1,000 a man as a crude yardstick of what it costs.

Sometimes—for example, in Forestry—there will be a high labour content and a low material content, whereas in the construction of buildings there is a very high material factor—even higher than the labour content.

However, that is a crude yardstick of the requirements—roughly £1,000 a man—and, on that basis, if our funds had been static, the result would have been that, spending the same amount of money, Queensland would have had to employ 3,500 fewer men.

Having said that, I point out quite plainly that, though the Government are confident that they can provide the extra funds, to avoid employing fewer men, it will be at the expense of the expansion of some desirable services. In other words, it becomes a choice between expanded pay for static services and predominantly static pay for expanded services. That is one of the great headaches that confront the Government in their approach to the finances for this year.

**Mr. Walsh:** In other words, fewer new works will be started.

**Mr. HILEY:** Exactly, because of the higher unit cost per employee.

There is one other matter to which I should like to make brief reference. Hon. members will have noticed in this morning's paper the publication of a report by the Commonwealth Committee on Decimal Currency indicating that they have recommended adoption of a decimal unit and pointing out the main features of the recommendation.

The Government set up a committee consisting of Mr. J. G. Rutherford, State Actuary, Mr. E. F. O. Witzke, Assistant Chief Inspector, Department of the Auditor-General, Mr. R. H. Fields of the Economic Section of the Treasury, and Mr. E. F. Fell, a Public Service Inspector, Public Service Commissioner's Office, who, among other things, has specialised in machine accounting and recording.

The committee spent a great deal of time in examining the subject and furnishing to the Government a report that was the basis of a statement in writing to the Commonwealth committee. I am sure hon. members will be interested to hear that, in almost microscopic detail the report of the Commonwealth committee is identical with the recommendation of the State committee. As the report of the State committee went to the Commonwealth body after it had been examined by Cabinet, I can inform hon. members that the Government supported the adoption of decimal currency and favoured the 10s. unit above all others. On that point, it is quite true to say that by adopting the 10s. unit rather than the £1 unit a straight conversion of historical statistics is upset, but anyone who has studied the problem of converting after-conversion statistics to the present basis of statistics will realise that it involves merely a two-to-one multiplication. When comparing series of statistical tables before and after conversion, the tables for the years after conversion with a unit basis of 10s. would have to be multiplied by 2. They could then be compared with the tables up to the point of change.

The real advantage of adopting a 10s. unit is that it keeps the cent at a fairly low value, that is, 1.2 pence, and so obviates the need to subdivide it, which would be necessary if the £1 basis was adopted as the cent would then be worth almost 2½d. The Government were concerned about that aspect. They did not want the subdivided unit of currency to have a high level of value, as it would follow that price rises would be too jumpy if the rise on each occasion had to be at least 2½d. The Government thought it would be far wiser to adopt a unit of 10s. with a cent value of 1.2 pence.

**Mr. Hanlon:** Did the State committee lean to a unit value of 10s., or 8s. 4d.?

**Mr. HILEY:** It preferred 10s. to 8s. 4d. The committee decided that the problem of conversion would be facilitated by two to one conversion rather than 2.4 to 1.

**Mr. Hanlon:** The members of the State committee looked at the problem purely from

the viewpoint of the State Government as a government rather than from the viewpoint of the community as a whole?

**Mr. HILEY:** No.

**Mr. Lloyd:** They considered it would be more convenient.

**Mr. HILEY:** Yes. We did not ask the committee to examine the subject narrowly, or, in other words, from the viewpoint only of the State Government.

**Mr. Hanlon:** They said all the way through their report that they were looking at it to see whether it was an advantage from the viewpoint of the State Government.

**Mr. HILEY:** I was particularly interested in the matter and had several discussions with them while they were considering it, to determine the effect on Queensland as a whole and Australia as a whole. Quite candidly, if I had struck a situation when it had to be decided whether we should do something for Queensland as a whole or something else from the viewpoint of the Government, my decision would have been to forget the inconvenience to the Government.

**Mr. Walsh:** Did the committee furnish any estimate of the cost of the conversion?

**Mr. HILEY:** I am coming to that. The Decimal Currency Committee considered the problem of conversion.

**Mr. Aikens:** If something is not done about inflation, we will have a decimated currency, not a decimal currency.

**Mr. HILEY:** If something is not done about the hon. member's interjections there will be no Parliament.

The committee examined the problem of conversion as it would affect the Government. The cost of conversion will not exceed £300,000, including the replacement of some school books. Obviously the present text books on arithmetic can be torn up, and a great deal of the slogging work involved in our present arithmetical studies will be over-come when decimal currency is adopted.

I hoped that I would have been able to give some indication of what conversion might cost in the realm of local government, and some broad estimate of what it might cost the commercial interests of Queensland. I am sorry to say that that information is not available to the committee and it is not available to me. All I can say is this: if the Government costs will come inside £300,000, I should not imagine that relatively it would be unbearable in the fields of local government or commerce. I think I am bound to say that the relative mechanisation of our accounting processes in the field of Government, if anything, lags behind that of the commercial community, and indeed, some elements of local government.

The committee saw no insuperable problem in conversion. The greatest limiting factor in the machine changeover that they saw was the time lag. They thought there would be some necessary period where both systems would run in parallel. I was interested to see that the Commonwealth committee shared that view, and agreed with that expression by the Queensland Committee.

**Mr. Aikens:** Would that £300,000 have to be spent in one year, or would it be spread over a period?

**Mr. HILEY:** I should think it would be two years, but do not forget that it would be one thing to alter the machines and another to get delivery of them. That is the main problem. That is why conversion will be spread over some period. Everyone in Australia will be wanting to get on to it. Indeed, the Commonwealth committee referred to the need to establish some priority. They said that there may be an advantage in having the whole of the banking system converted in one run rather than spasmodically.

**Mr. Walsh:** It would have to be done on an Australia-wide basis.

**Mr. HILEY:** That is right.

**An Opposition Member:** Will machines that are made from now on have some form of convertibility?

**Mr. HILEY:** That will be watched, I believe.

The Government hope that decimal currency will ensure great improvements in accounting practice. We have hesitated to adopt electronic methods for our accounting processes. This decision will remove the impediment. We have, quite plainly, spent far too long languishing in the manual work era. There is far too much hard work and too much division into separate compartments in all our accounting procedures. When hon. members consider there are available machines that can calculate all the varied elements of paying ordinary time, overtime, and special allowances, and adjust all those allowances and recognise the deductions that are authorised by the employee, calculate and deduct the proper income tax deduction, and finally draw the cheque, and do all that at a screamingly fast rate, they will have some idea of the handicap to which we are now subjected.

We have been over-long on our manual processes in the Railway Department, where, in the interests of economy, there has been a screaming need for the mechanisation of accounting processes. This decision will remove one of the big doubts in our minds, and one of the factors causing hesitation. We did not like to go ahead and adopt electronic process methods only to find that our machines became obsolete within a year or two, because we suspected that what our own committee would find would agree with the finding on the Commonwealth level.

We now know we have three years in which to get ready and select and train staff, and prepare ideal stationery for the change. Incidentally, it is now perfectly clear that one of the great advantages of adopting a decimal system widely throughout Australia will be that it will open the range of equipment available from those centres of the world where the manufacture and development of such machines has been carried out to its greatest point.

Until now we have largely been limited to sterling equipment and, while some magnificent equipment has come from sterling quarters, we have been denied the consideration of any of the countries that base their currency on a decimal system. We have been denied access to North American equipment; we have been denied access to French, German and other Continental equipment. And in this field of electronic processing no one country has absolute leadership or a complete monopoly of the best. Having the ability to shop widely over the world will enable us to pick the ideal machines for certain processes—perhaps from Italy for one purpose, from France for another and from the United Kingdom for some other. For one purpose the only machine to consider might be one from the United States.

**Mr. Aikens:** Did the committee consider only decimal coinage, or did it go into the metric system of weights and measures, too?

**Mr. HILEY:** I will come to that.

We welcome this move. I regret that it is unlikely in my time that the move towards the adoption of the decimal system will extend beyond the currency. My personal belief is that there is an equally rich field open with weights and measures and that no great problem would be involved in replacing tons, cwts., quarters, pounds and ounces, or, on the liquid side, gallons, quarts, pints and gills. The bushel, the unit of volume measurement, could remain unchanged. But I do see difficulty in the field of lengths and areas. I should like to be able to get rid of miles, furlongs, acres, perches, chains, rods, yards, feet, and inches, with links thrown in as an added element of conversion and confusion. But our system of land survey and registration and our Torrens titles and lease registers make such a task monumental. Some countries have tried to make the change and, after a generation of attempt, they find themselves still bogged down in the conversion. I understand that that is so in Italy, where they have attempted to change over from a system something like ours to the metric system. I believe they have been over 20 years on the task and are still not half way. I can see real difficulty on the subject of lengths and areas, but I do not see the same difficulty in adopting the metric system for weights and measures.

**Mr. Coburn:** It will be costly.

**Mr. HILEY:** Not for weights and measures. The scales will be altered and, after that, what? They would have to be replaced in 20 years, anyhow.

**Mr. Coburn:** But the old weights, too, would be useless.

**Mr. HILEY:** Even so, I do not regard it as an insuperable task.

**Mr. Coburn:** Very costly, nevertheless.

**Mr. Pilbeam:** The financial cost of changing over the system for weights and measures would be nowhere near the cost of the changeover from the sterling to the decimal system.

**Mr. HILEY:** However, I have real doubts about the feasibility of changing over the lengths and areas and I do not see the same help to day-to-day government and commerce, even though those units of measurement do enter largely into the measurement of piece goods and the consumption of metal, wire, and so on, and other important elements of manufacture.

However, the point I want to make, seeing that the subject is so topical, is that the Queensland Government are in entire agreement with the recommendation that has come forward. As we shall probably be invited to say something quite plainly to the Commonwealth Government about it, I wanted to take the earliest opportunity of indicating the views of the Government to the Committee so that if any hon. member has a particular view on the subject he may advance it. The Government would like to know it. They want to be in a position to take any such views into account when making submissions to the Commonwealth.

**Mr. Walsh:** Can you suggest any reason why Britain is lagging such a long way behind in this? After all, Britain has tremendous financial and trade transactions.

**Mr. Nicklin:** It is a question of cost.

**Mr. HILEY:** There is a great deal in the Premier's observation. We must remember that England is still on sterling, and sterling is more than a national currency. It is an international currency. Indeed, it is an international institution. I have a feeling that if we were trying to talk this matter out in the city of London at the moment, we would be subject to the righteous indignation of many men who think that in some way conversion would debase sterling. I cannot agree with them.

**Mr. Aikens:** According to them, it would be undermining the British Empire.

**Mr. HILEY:** That is so. There would be all sorts of suggestions. There is nothing further that I wish to add at this stage.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Before calling upon the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, I point out to hon. members, particularly new hon.

members, that on this occasion they can speak for 15 minutes, five minutes, and five minutes. This is not the introduction of a Bill, where hon. members are allowed to speak only once, for 25 minutes or less.

**Mr. LLOYD (Kedron) (12.42 p.m.):** First, Mr. Taylor, I congratulate you upon your reappointment as Chairman of Committees. I am sure that if you maintain the same high standard of tolerance and order in Committee, and, when acting in the absence of Mr. Speaker, in the House, you will receive the support of every member of the Opposition.

The Treasurer has the habit, when bringing down Appropriation Bills, of introducing interesting subjects, and apparently endeavouring to make them the main subjects for debate. I think on one occasion he raised the point whether uniform taxation should be continued. Today he has mentioned decimal coinage.

I do not intend to discuss decimal coinage at length, but I wish to add some comments to those already made by the Treasurer. The question of changing to decimal coinage has been raised in many countries in the sterling area, including Great Britain, over the past 150 years. There have been numerous royal commissions, not only in Great Britain but also in Australia, and a Prime Minister of Australia, the late Hon. J. B. Chifley, was a member of a royal commission in the early 1930's. That commission made a recommendation that we should convert our currency to a pound-cent system of decimal coinage. As so often happens, that recommendation was shelved and the sterling standard was retained. In view of the progress of automation and the improvements being made in automatic machinery, if we are to make the change to decimal coinage we must make it immediately. If we delay for a few years it will be almost impossible to make the change because of the high cost involved.

Another difficulty is in getting the people to accept conversion, though I do not think we would have the same difficulty in Australia as has been experienced in India, or in South Africa, where I understand they are now in the transitional period of changing to decimal coinage.

I wish to give a warning on one or two aspects. One is the political impact that the change could have. I think governments in the past have not adopted a system of decimal coinage because it would have meant increased prices. The 10s.-cent system gives a value to the cent equal to 1.2 pence, and it is recognised by authorities that there would be an immediate upsurge in prices of goods and commodities if we made the conversion. In other words, where previously we used units of a half-penny, or perhaps a penny, we would immediately convert to a one-cent unit equal to 1.2 pence. The natural tendency for retailers and others in the community would be to increase prices to consumers rather than to reduce them.

Therefore, there would be a political impact on the community itself.

Another difficulty arises from dollar reserves. As we all realise, the United States of America is a very poor purchaser of Australian commodities. Very little of our wool, and none of our sugar, goes to America. Heavy import duties are imposed by that country on Australian lead and zinc.

**Mr. Hilton** interjected.

**Mr. LLOYD:** Possibly some embargo will be placed on the importation of Australian beef. No doubt the Commonwealth Government might have to consider whether Australia can import her automotive machinery and accountancy machines from the United States instead of from Great Britain as has been the custom in the past. The main factor, however, is increased prices and their impact upon the Australian consumer. I shall reserve further comment on that subject matter until another debate.

At this stage I wish to refer particularly to the finances of Queensland over the last year or two, and to comment on the results of the recent State election. In my opinion, during that campaign the people of Queensland gave ample evidence of their general distrust of the Government, who have had three years in which to consolidate their position and to rectify what they previously had criticised as anomalies or failures on the part of previous Labour Governments to develop the State and to secure the necessary finance to enable Queensland to be developed. But they have failed. By their precipitate legislation they have proved their complete inability to appreciate the ordinary humanities that should be observed by any responsible Government.

From time to time the Treasurer has come forward with deficit budgets. He has used deficit budgeting as an excuse, saying that he is doing his best and is trying to provide full employment for the people of Queensland. But the actual level of cash and investments held and available to the Treasurer have remained almost stationary over the past three years. Actually, there has been a slight improvement in the position. To a great extent the improvement in the State's cash investments results from the accumulation in the Mt. Isa Railway Trust Account of, I think, approximately £2,750,000. At the same time, that is money that has not been spent in the interests of providing full employment or developing the State during each 12-monthly period. Although there has been all this talk of deficit budgeting, in actual fact the State's finances have not deteriorated to any great extent; indeed, there has been some slight improvement. If we are to have development and if we are to provide full employment for the people of Queensland, the Government should have the courage of previous Labour Governments and embark on deficit budgeting. I can see a smile on the Treasurer's face. I agree that at all times throughout the life of the last Parliament

when it was necessary to provide full employment it might have been essential to embark on deficit budgeting.

**Mr. Aikens:** You criticised the Treasurer last year.

**Mr. LLOYD:** Never at any time for deficit budgeting in times of unemployment.

**Mr. Aikens:** Have a look at "Hansard".

**Mr. LLOYD:** Nor did the Leader of the Opposition criticise the Treasurer for deficit budgeting. He often criticised statements by the Treasurer when that hon. gentleman was in Opposition. In fact, we can go back over the years and find, from time to time, assertions by the Treasurer himself that Governments were spending too much money; that, whilst there was this investment of capital in the public sector of our economy, the savings of the people were not in true relationship to it and inflationary aspects were brought forward, and that it was essential for the Government to restrict their expenditure on public works. The Treasurer himself has made those statements in the past and they have been reflected back at him. Although he was talking about deficit budgeting, he was, in fact, doing exactly the same thing for which he was criticising previous Labour Governments.

I think he will remember that, as recently as 1955-1956, he accused the hon. member for Bundaberg of bringing forward a budget and hiding away reserves; he criticised the procedure adopted by the hon. member for Bundaberg at that time.

**Mr. Walsh:** I never had to raise a suspense account to balance the Budget.

**Mr. LLOYD:** In actual fact, the financial position of the State does not disclose any serious aspect of deficit budgeting.

**Mr. Walsh:** The deficit is nearer £4,000,000.

**Mr. LLOYD:** The deficits have been much less. The one in 1957-1958, I believe, was reduced by the Commonwealth Grants Commission to the extent of £500,000. There have been other corrections, I understand, but those figures are not available.

We in this State find ourselves in a serious position mainly because of an apparent falling-off in net migration. At Premier's Conferences and Loan Council meetings, on both of which bodies formulas apply, we are dependent to a great extent on allocations to finance additional services on a population-percentage basis.

In two recent years—I think they were 1957 and 1958—the Commonwealth Grants Commission stated in their report that of all the States in the Commonwealth, Queensland was the only one that showed a net migration loss. The figure disclosed in that report was a net loss in migration of 1,414 in 1957-1958, whereas every other State in the Commonwealth, particularly New South

Wales, Victoria and South Australia, showed a large increase. During the last financial year we have had another migration loss.

If we go to Premier's Conferences and Loan Council meetings with evidence from the Government Statistician that Queensland is suffering a migration loss, we will suffer a reduction in the percentage due to this State under the formula. If we are to advance and develop this State we cannot afford to budget purely and simply on an arithmetical formula. Although I have great respect for the ability and capacity of the Treasurer, I am afraid he has failed from the point of view of the human factor. We can, perhaps, base ordinary accountancy practice purely and simply on a costing basis, but in matters of government there are other factors to be considered.

One such factor is housing. All the figures disclose that there has been an increase in the construction of homes, flats, and other buildings, but in actual fact there is a tremendous housing shortage amongst those people who are victims of an artificially-created poverty—pensioners, low-wage earners and other who are unable to afford the high rentals that are charged by private landlords. They cannot afford to pay interest on housing loans. The capital cost of a home is beyond the financial resources of young people on average incomes, and so they are unable to secure loans. Many people get advances of up to £3,400 from the Housing Commission under the Commonwealth-States Housing Agreement, with interest and redemption charges of £5 a week or £21 to £22 a month. How can they meet such payments?

**Mr. Hilton:** Many of them cannot buy a block of land.

**Mr. LLOYD:** That is another factor. Many people share accommodation with in-laws or live in over-crowded and sub-standard conditions. Although they, with all others are entitled to homes, they are unable to secure them under the present circumstances.

When the Treasurer first accepted his portfolio I pointed out to him that private building societies should be given every encouragement. I understand he has increased the level of advances available from co-operative building societies. That is a progressive step, but at the same time more money should be available for the housing of people in the lower-income group. That is not the policy at the moment. The only people now buying houses are those who can afford the capital cost of a home.

**Mr. Hiley:** Accepting that as desirable, what step do you think we should take? Should the money be taken off the amount for irrigation, for example?

**Mr. LLOYD:** No, I am pointing out that although homes are being built they are being provided only for those who can pay the rentals or the interest and redemption charges on home purchase.

The policy of the Government for the past three years has been to sell every State rental house that has been built. While that policy is followed there will always be a concentrated housing shortage among those who are unable to pay high rentals or high interest and redemption payments.

I turn to a further point. We frequently speak of the shortage of loan money for development, and I understand the seriousness of the problem. The net loan expenditure in Queensland has increased by not more than £1,000,000 a year. I am speaking of the net loan expenditure, not the allocation. We should endeavour to secure internally as much finance as possible. We are not receiving justice from the Loan Council, nor will we receive it while that body is constituted as at present. The Treasurer has adopted a policy of refusing to allow inspectors of the State Government Insurance Office to go through Government offices and so secure more or less a monopoly of the insurance business of public servants.

**Mr. Hiley:** Would you say that again?

**Mr. LLOYD:** In years gone by inspectors of the State Government Insurance Office were allowed to canvass Government departments or interview public servants in order to secure their private insurance business. Now, however, they are not. Over the years the State Government Insurance Office enjoyed a monopoly, but other insurance companies have now been given equal rights and the privilege previously given to State Government Insurance Office Inspectors is no longer available to them. The net result is that if at any time a State Insurance inspector enters a department and a complaint is lodged, it is only natural that it is the responsibility of the Insurance Commissioner to take action even to the extent of dismissing the inspector. On the other hand, a private insurance company would certainly congratulate any of its officers who secured a policy from a public servant.

When we consider the very large amount of money invested by the State Government Insurance Office in local-authority work, this prohibition could affect the amount of finance available to local authorities from that office. In many cases, private companies have their headquarters overseas or in other States. The extra revenue that they receive from these policies may not be spent in Queensland; it may be spent in other countries or other States. The Treasurer should restore to the State Government Insurance Office that monopoly in the interests of local development work in the State.

I have mentioned that Queensland has been losing migrants. There are only two reasons for that. In the first place, development in Queensland has not expanded to the same extent as in the other States where there

has been a progressive expansion and an absorption of additional people through migrants.

The net loan expenditure in Queensland compared with that in other States is very significant. We have not received sufficient loan allocations. We are unable to spend enough loan moneys to continue to develop and expand as we should. The table I have here takes me only to 1958-1959, but it gives an indication of the net loan expenditure. These are the figures—

—	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.
	£ Mil.	£ Mil.	£ Mil.	£ Mil.	£ Mil.	£ Mil.
1955-1956 ..	50	36	19	24	13	13
1957-1958 ..	53	38	20	22	14	10
1958-1959 ..	54.5	41.5	21	24.2	16.2	11.7

Those figures show a very low per capita expenditure of loan money for Queensland development. The only way to overcome the tremendous problems with which Queensland is confronted is to revise the Financial Agreement. If we are to maintain the growth of population, and continue development such as has been going on in the rest of this country and in other nations of the world in the post-war years, we must get additional loan allocations.

The Financial Agreement has been in operation for some 36 years, and there has been only one minor amendment in that time. No-one could ever imagine that what was applicable in 1924 could apply under present conditions. The taking over of control of the Commonwealth Bank, subsequent to the depression years, has given the Commonwealth Government the power of veto over any decision of the Loan Council. In addition, by gaining the support of not more than one State, the Commonwealth Government can control the Loan Council. By this power of control over the Commonwealth Bank it can limit the expenditure of the States.

There can be only one answer to the question. Where the loan allocations are based only on the necessary social services expenditure by each State, there should be, by means of an amendment to the Financial Agreement, a separate allocation for developmental works. That would mean that developmental expenditure would be completely separate from social services expenditure. Furthermore, the Commonwealth Government or some other interstate authority would be available to collaborate on plans for national development. In that way Queensland would receive some measure of justice, and developmental work would be on a separate allocation based on sparsity of population, potential development, and any other factors that may be given consideration. Without that we cannot expect

to continue to expand in line with expansion overseas, or with the needs of private industry.

I have very little time left but I wish to mention briefly the deflationary measures that have been adopted by the Commonwealth Government, measures that have received so much support from this Government. They intend to attack inflation in two ways. The first is by reducing the purchasing power of the wage and salary-earner, either by income taxation or intervention before the industrial courts. The latter procedure was followed by the State Government when they intervened before the Commonwealth Arbitration Commission. I do not accept the statement that that was only a neutral intervention. It was done in such a way as to prevent the ordinary wage-earners from receiving wage justice. We differ from all the older nations in many respects. If we adopt their practice, in the financial policy of the Commonwealth Government, by reducing the expenditure in the public sector of the economy because our investments are too high, it can lead only to the stagnation of national development.

(Time expired.)

**Mr. HERBERT** (Sherwood) (2.22 p.m.): I wish to submit for the consideration of the Committee a proposal for the establishment of an agricultural college in the metropolitan area, and in particular at Corinda.

Before I develop my argument for the establishment of such a college in the metropolitan area, I should like to list the specific advantages of the site I have in mind at Corinda. It is on the banks of Oxley Creek, next to the existing Corinda High School, and slightly upstream from it. Enough land is available at a reasonable price, and the establishment of the school there would save the Government the expense of developing sporting facilities for the agricultural high school, because both institutions could share the existing facilities. The high school is a picture of what a high school should be, mainly because of the layout of the grounds and the fact that there is magnificent timber on the school property.

The main advantage of the site is that on the opposite side of Oxley Creek from the high school the Department of Agriculture and Stock has an experimental station and I am sure that the department would co-operate with the Education Department if an agricultural high school were established there.

**Mr. Pizzey:** Do you mean a separate high school, or an Agricultural Junior course at the high school?

**Mr. HERBERT:** I suggest a separate high school eventually, although I think it would have to be started as an agricultural course. I think so many students will apply for the course that a separate school will become a necessity.

The experimental station fronting Sherwood Road, Rocklea, already has extensive cattle-yarding facilities and cattle, piggeries, and a very large poultry section. All it lacks is sheep. I am quite sure that Romney Marsh sheep in particular could be introduced there without any trouble. Thus the Education Department would be spared the considerable expense of providing yarding and other facilities for cattle and other animals that may be used by the school. I am certain that the Department of Agriculture and Stock would co-operate to the full if the agricultural course were established. The only drawback is that the experimental station is on the other side of Oxley Creek. Oxley Creek is tidal there and about 20 feet wide, so it would necessitate the building of a pedestrian bridge across the creek. It would not be very expensive and it would open up the whole area for school use.

There is no possibility that the land at present being used for experimental purposes will be required at a later date for residential development, because it is in an area that has been declared a flood area by the Brisbane City Council. Although it is quite good for farming purposes, it would not be suitable for future building. It was originally a dairy farm, and the Department of Agriculture and Stock has now established a very extensive experimental station there.

Another point in favour of the area is that the new markets are to be built on the opposite side of Sherwood Road from the experimental station. The students would have the opportunity there of watching fruit and vegetable packing and inspection and also observe the ripening rooms that are to be installed there. That would be an integral part of any agricultural course, and it would give students a unique opportunity of observing that part of their studies without having to travel any distance. It would be the only place in Brisbane where these two institutions would be side by side and adjacent to a block of land available for school purposes.

Availability of transport is another factor that makes the area particularly suitable. Corinda station is within half a mile of the Corinda High School, and children from all over Brisbane could travel to it without having to change trains. The Corinda loop links it with South Brisbane, and all trains from the north side and from Ipswich pass through Corinda. Adjacent to the site the Methodist church conducts the William Powell Home, which is quite an extensive farm. I am sure the church would co-operate and possibly allow part of its land to be used for experimental purposes, and at a later stage the land might even be available to the department for expanding any projected school. The Department of Public Lands and Irrigation has a weed-control research establishment at Sherwood next to the Arboretum, and this is also within easy reach of the school. Both of these places would be suitable for day trips for

students, and the site is also within fairly easy reach of the Yeerongpilly Animal Research Station. That establishment is going to be re-located by the University in the next few years, but it could be retained as an adjunct to the school. This site has not only the advantage of convenient transport but also a number of natural advantages not available elsewhere.

If this projected agricultural college were established, or an agricultural course were introduced at the existing high school, I think we would be amazed at the response. In Brisbane today there are a number of youngsters who would be more than willing to undertake an agricultural course if they could do it on a day-study basis. At present, a lad in the metropolitan area who wants to do an agricultural course to fit him to go on the land has to go to the Queensland Agricultural High School and College at Gatton, and he has to go away from home to take it. We hear a great deal about the drift to the city, and this might be one way of arresting that drift; perhaps even causing a small drift to the country. Once a man has been trained at an agricultural college his future is on the land, and I think we should support any move that would take people back to the land, because the future of the country rests on the land.

The establishment of an agricultural high school in Brisbane would be in line with the establishment of agricultural high schools in country areas. It would also bring in its train some consideration of the future of the existing agricultural college at Gatton. Frankly, I think that eventually we shall have to face the prospect of Gatton College suspending Junior and sub-Junior entry and restricting it to sub-Senior and Senior students, together with agricultural science students from the University. Lads who desire to go further than the Agricultural Junior level would go to Gatton, and Gatton would become the senior high school taking those who wanted to delve deeply into agricultural subjects. Those who desired only to reach Junior standard could get that education at any of the many agricultural high schools that are being opened in country areas. It would overcome the problem posed by lads who go to Gatton College ostensibly to gain an agricultural education but who, as has been suggested by many people, go there really to get a cheap secondary education. The Research and Guidance Branch of the Department of Education has delved fairly extensively into the problem, and has issued a very interesting bulletin—Bulletin No. 20—on the achievements of the college. I recommend it to hon. members. It points out that approximately 80 per cent. of the students of Gatton Agricultural College finish up in rural industries, which is quite a good result.

The distressing part of the activities of the college is the very large number who fail to complete more than the first year. Thirty-

eight per cent. of the students stay only one year or less. That represents a huge loss and a very big expense to the State, because it costs a great deal of money to keep the college going. Had we an agricultural high school in the metropolitan area the cost per pupil would be considerably less because there would be no need to provide boarding facilities for students. Even if a large number of students left the college early in the course there would not be the same expense to the State in partly educating those who failed to make the grade. Once one college commenced I am quite sure the response would be sufficient to require the opening of a second in the area, or at least an agricultural course at another of the high schools in the metropolitan area. I know that the department has held land for a considerable time at Banyo or Zillmere for a project of this nature.

An agricultural college should have been opened in the metropolitan area years ago. Many lads go through the normal high schools and matriculate, and then commence an agricultural science course at the University, but they suffer from a lack of training in the basic principles of farming or agricultural science. If they started the agricultural course earlier they would find the University course easier because of their earlier practical experience. Many of the State's best agricultural scientists came from the city and had their education in the city before they did any practical farming. There is no reason why a city lad should not make as much a success of an agricultural course as one born and bred in the country. On the other hand, many country families move to Brisbane with their teenage children round about the time of their secondary education. Many of them still retain their country properties. If these lads could obtain a secondary education in agriculture while living in Brisbane they probably could be induced to return to the family holdings more readily than if they had taken an ordinary academic Junior or Senior course.

A proposal such as this needs thoughtful consideration because it has an extensive operation. And so I suggest that it be started off on a firm economic basis, commencing with an agricultural course attached to the present high school and with sufficient land reserved for the ultimate establishment of a full agricultural high school. If it is a success it could be extended to other parts of Brisbane, but I submit that Corinda has natural advantages that do not exist anywhere else in the metropolitan area. I commend the suggestion to the Committee.

**Mr. AIKENS** (Townsville South) (2.36 p.m.): First of all, Mr. Taylor, I should like to congratulate you sincerely on your re-election to the position of Chairman of Committees. It is quite true that you have recently gone through a period of travail within your party, but you emerged from

it, I think, with dignity and honour. When I was a boy going to school I was told that the test of true sportsmanship was the ability to win without boasting and to lose without rancour. If that is the true test of sportsmanship, Mr. Taylor, then you are indeed a true sportsman.

I did not hesitate during those few remarks to reply to the inane interjection from the hon. member for Brisbane, because his only conception of sportsmanship is that which is practised in the noisome dives of Spring Hill. That is not the type of sportsmanship that should commend itself, at any rate to members of this honourable Assembly.

I want to deal now with something that is occurring in Townsville at the present time, something that is under the control of the Treasurer, although I attach no blame to him or to any of his officers for it. It has reached the proportions of a public scandal, and I intend to expose the whole of the facts so that the Treasurer can—and I am sure he will—take appropriate action.

For some time the Queensland Housing Commission has been letting contracts for the building of homes to firms of bad repute and of no substance—firms that employ poor workmen, in the main, and adopt many questionable practices. They make a practice of smashing awards and accepted working conditions, and one firm—

**Mr. Mann:** Have you the name of the firm?

**Mr. AIKENS:** Yes. Unlike the hon. member, I name the people I talk about; I do not hide behind subterfuge. Cairns Modern Building Company is the name of one firm that is under contract to build 37 houses in Townsville and 14 in Winton. It is in very deep financial water and, as a matter of fact, it has rubber cheques bouncing all over North Queensland. A lot of those rubber cheques that are bouncing all over the place are for wages for employees who have worked for the firm.

So deeply involved has this company become with regard to the houses that it is building at Garbutt, in Townsville, that quite recently the Housing Commission had to take some action to protect itself and those who were buying houses from the Commission on £250 deposit. As a result, it would appear that the Housing Commission had taken control of the firm's affairs and had promised to pay all outstanding wage claims. I have been informed that, several weeks ago, a meeting of auditors was called and they agreed among themselves not to bankrupt this firm. They appointed a committee to take over the firm's financial affairs and selected a firm of accountants, Messrs. Dean & Brookhouse, to act on their behalf.

The Queensland Housing Commission was represented at the meeting, I am informed, by Mr. Dawson, the district inspector, and

the Government were represented by Mr. Marshall, the industrial inspector. They were there, naturally, to protect the interests of the Housing Commission and the Government, and, I put it in all fairness to the Treasurer, to protect employees to whom wages were owing and others with outstanding claims. The creditors agreed not to press for settlement of their debts at the present time, and that all wage claims would be met first out of progress payments.

I have been assured that the Queensland Housing Commission has also guaranteed that all old wage claims, as well as other outstanding accounts will be paid and that in future all progress payments on the jobs are to be paid into the company's account, which cannot be operated on by the company except through Messrs. Dean & Brookhouse. I have been informed that the last meeting of the creditors took place on Thursday, 14 July.

This firm is putting up a shocking exhibition at Garbutt. Yesterday I wrote to the Treasurer about one case. I do not know if he has yet received my letter. In this instance a young Air Force man had paid a deposit on a home at Garbutt and was informed by the central office in Brisbane that all the relevant papers had been sent to Townsville, that he should call at the Townsville office to complete the forms, and that he would then be able to take over his home at Garbutt. But the Townsville office has advised him that the forms are not ready for completion, that the office will send for him when they are ready. In a letter to me, which I have sent to the Treasurer, this young man states that he is now in the invidious position of having to live on the side veranda of his parents' home in very overcrowded conditions.

I am going to give some instances of the shoddy work being done by this firm. If the Housing Commission is going to assume all the financial responsibility for payment of the accounts of this company, it must assume responsibility for the cost of the repairs and alterations that are continually being done to the houses that it has built. They are of a peculiar style, having regard to conditions in North Queensland. The studs are not morticed and tenoned into the top and bottom plates; they are merely skew-nailed to the bottom plate. They are supposed to be skew-nailed into the top plate, but many studs do not reach the top plate; they simply swing in the breeze. Every now and again a half-inch bar comes down from the top to the bottom plate, and nuts are screwed on the thread at each end of the bar. That is the only way in which the top plate is fastened to the bottom plate. I repeat that in many instances the studs do not go from the bottom to the top. The builders try to drive a nail in, but half an inch of nail or more can be seen between the top plate and the top of the stud.

In other houses the chamfer boards outside the houses are so wide open that fingers can be inserted between them.

**Mr. Pizzey:** Did someone tell you this?

**Mr. AIKENS:** I am giving actual facts. In a moment I shall read a report of an inspector of the Housing Commission on one of these houses, and it is one of the best. It would appear that the specifications covering Housing Commission houses now under construction are not in keeping with what is required for North Queensland's cyclonic conditions. The checking of studs into the top or bottom plates should be replaced with mortice and tenons. Some consideration should be given to the placing of openings to allow for proper bracing of all walls. A frame constructed with mortice and tenons, properly braced, and adequate cyclone rods and battens, would be far superior to the present method of structure, even though cyclone rods are provided.

I intend shortly to read the Housing Commission Inspector's report. I saw the report and I have a copy of it. I saw it in the Housing Commission Inspector's handwriting. It has his signature on it but it is almost as indecipherable as that of the Treasurer, and that is the most indecipherable signature I have seen. I do not say that in any derogatory spirit. I think the signature is "L. H. Eniff." That is the best we could make of it. This is what he ordered to be done to only one of the houses, and it is one of the best. There are 48 faults, many of them very serious, and many of them so damning, as I have said, as to reach the proportions of a public scandal.

This is the report—

"1. Provide and fix 2 cyclone bolts (14 in all) and tighten nuts to same.

2. Replace floor joists as marked same to have full bearing on plates and bearers."

Many of the joists are not level. When you put joists in a house, you put all the joists level to the narrowest joist, so that the floor will be level. They put in joists of all widths, so the floor is down in some places, and up in others, and they sent men underneath the house to knock the floorboards up off the joists and one could see the nails. I am going to ask the Treasurer to look at this himself. You can see the nails between the floor and the joist, so they could get the floor level, on top. They knocked the floor off the joists, where the joists are narrow, in order to get the floor level. I shall repeat No. 2—

"Replace floor joists as marked same to have full bearing on plates and bearers." In other words, replace the joists that are narrower than the other joists being used.

The report continues—

"3. Top low stump marked under first bedroom.

4. Straighten stump caps where required and square same with plates.

5. Plaster faces of concrete stumps where damaged alongside bolts to upright for battening.

6. Replace 3 x 1½ uprights to battening where checks for rails exceed 3 inches.

7. Provide longer bolts through stumps holding anchor bolts where uprights have been checked.

8. Provide lead packing under bearer at intersection of bottom plate of side wall of first bedroom, second stump from front corner.

9. Plumb front corner stump under corner windows to living room.

10. Plumb short 3 x 3 stud to laundry wall under intersection of return back landing plate and main plate 1/4 out of plumb and adjust 3 x 2 sole plates of back and side walls of laundry.

11. Provide longer 4 x 4 and 3 x 3 posts to back landing to be cut off in line of 4 x 2 top plate.

12. Provide 4 x 2 top plate to back landing continued 12 in. past each side to support return soffit. Cut off fascia in line with back side of return fascia and provide short rafters behind fascia boards.

13. Bottom treads to front and back steps to extend 4 in. past each string." Just listen to this—

"14. All external sheeting to be removed and recramp tight and straighten all the studs."

That is because you can put your fingers through the chamfer boards on the external walls. They all have to be removed and recramped and straightened.

**Mr. Hilton:** What about the miner birds?

**Mr. AIKENS:** The hon. member is not buying one of these houses. He has a lovely home of his own, so he is not interested in the poor people who have to buy these shocking jerry-built houses. I shall continue with the list—

"15. All 3 x 2 studs alongside extension openings 6 ft. or over to be reinforced with 3 x 2 studs prior to resheeting.

16. Replace 4 x 4 corner studs rebated excessive checks taken out.

17. Replace split casement sills marked and level same.

18. Replace split 3 x 2 head over corner window first bedroom.

19. Plumb all short studs over and under all external openings and also in partitions.

20. Plumb all studs in front gable.

21. Plumb all studs in back wall to kitchen prior to sheeting wall.

22. Provide support to vermin plate return alongside front door opening." That deals with the hon. member for Carnarvon.

I proceed to point out that when they go to put in the doors they find that they are not square but rather at an acute angle. Sometimes a door has 3 inches swinging

loose at the top while it fits flush at the bottom. Sometimes they have to cut away some of the stud in an effort to make the door fit. I invite hon. members to go and have a look at them.

The list continues—

“23. Straighten all studs in partitions.

24. Replace 3 x 2 stud back wall to kitchen.

25. Replace head in east opening back wall to kitchen parallel opening and level sill.

26. Straighten casement sills bathroom, second bedroom.

27. Check levelling of heads in partitions and parallel of openings.

28. Replace split partition top plate between bathroom and second bedroom.”

Even the top plates are split. It goes on—

“29. Replace short stud to door opening of first bedroom.”

They had a short stud up on one side of the door opening and a long stud on the other, so that the stud on one side was 5 inches higher than the stud on the other. Try and hang a door in an opening such as that!

**Mr. Walsh:** That must be a cheap method of air-conditioning.

**Mr. AIKENS:** Yes. It goes on—

“30. Finish chamfer boards flush with underside of heads.

31. Replace split stud alongside cupboard door opening in passage.

32. Replace split head to bathroom door opening.

33. All rafters to be fixed line down each side of hips and valley.

34. Provide strut under valley rafter over living room right side round down and adjust valley boards to same.

35. Provide 4 x 2 struts at 6-foot centres.

36. Level all collar ties.”

Anyone who knows anything about building a house knows what a collar tie is. They did not even have the collar ties level. They cut the collar tie first and if they had to put it at an angle of 30 degrees or 45 degrees it made no difference; as long as the collar tie went in, that was all right with them.

The report continues—

“37. Parallel roof batten over second bedroom marked.

38. Re-fix bottom battens to line with top of fascia boards.

39. Replace broken A.C. sheeting in soffit at front.

40. Provide 4 x 4 post to back landing alongside laundry.

41. Level ridge to front gable.

42. Level all collar ties and shoulders of same to fit tight against underside of rafters.

43. Replace short binder over bathroom and the line of all binders to be continuous.

44. Cross joists to soffit to be checked into wall plates.

45. Replace split fascia board where marked and straighten bottom edges of fascia boards.

46. Securely nail all A.C. sheeting in soffit.

47. Panels of battening to finish in line with outside face of bottom plates.

48. Arris edges of all exposed timber.”

Let me tell you another little racket that they work—and this has to be seen to be believed. At times a Housing Commission inspector has told them to take out, say, a 4 inches x 3 inches bearer or bottom plate under the house and replace it with a 5 inches x 4 inches, but they do not alter the stump; they leave it the same size as the others. So they take the 5 inches x 4 inches bearer or bottom plate and they cut a great hunk out of it and fit it over the stump. That is the way they replace a 4 inches x 3 inches bearer with a 5 inches x 4 inches. They cut a hunk out of the bearer and fit it over the stump.

**Mr. Newton:** Do they get the chamfer-boards then to follow that plate?

**Mr. AIKENS:** Let us listen to the hon. member because he knows what he is talking about. The chamfer boards go where they can put them. As I said, the studs are swinging in the breeze. They are only skew-nailed on the bottom. And if the studs do not fit into the little groove that they cut in the bottom plate, they do not rasp them out or file them up; they hack them out with an axe. It does not matter to them as long as they fit in. The hon. member for Belmont, as a competent carpenter, would realise the job it would be to put up the external sheeting, the chamfer boards, on studs that are swinging in the breeze. They are so bad that one competent carpenter on the job who was getting £30 a week, including overtime of course, repairing faults in the houses got so sick and tired of having to do it day after day that he turned the job in after five weeks and took an ordinary job without overtime with an established firm in order to ease his conscience. That is just one firm.

**Mr. Bennett:** What are the inspectors doing?

**Mr. AIKENS:** I am not saying that the inspectors are at fault. An inspector would have to camp on the job all the time to see that the things were done. If an inspector went out, as this one did, and made an inspection and issued a list of faults—there were 48 faults on this job alone—they would

start to pull them down, but the moment his back was turned they would have their "brummy" carpenters back on the job so that they could get the internal and external sheeting up to cover up all the faults. The only way an inspector could see if the faults had been rectified would be to pull the internal and external sheeting down. I think the inspectors are doing all they possibly can under the circumstances. I am not here to bring any charge against the inspector. This one obviously did his job, because he found 48 serious faults in one job—and that was the best house of the lot.

If my information is correct about the Housing Commission accepting the financial responsibility for the payment of all debts and all accounts associated with these houses, all this extra expenditure will be added to the cost of the houses. The unfortunate people, most of whom are young couples starting off in life and trying to rear a young family and give them a decent roof over their heads, are going to pay a very high price for a shoddy, jerry-built dwelling, because, no matter what the housing inspectors can do, much of this shoddy work is still going to be covered up and handed over to the unfortunate owner when he takes over from the Housing Commission. I think it is a shocking state of affairs.

I have a very high regard—I have said this before, and I say it with all sincerity—for the honesty and integrity of the Treasurer. We have heard him in this Chamber, in reply to questions directed to him by members of the Opposition, publicly rebuke the State Housing Commissioner for doing things that he, the Treasurer, thought he should not have done, and for not doing things that he thought he should have done. The Building Workers' Industrial Union is active in the matter, and I make no secret of the fact that I got much of my information from them. I attended a meeting of that union's executive to get this information first-hand from the men who had actually been employed on the job. In order to ease the apprehension of the people of Townsville, and particularly the members of that union, I think the Treasurer should go to Townsville for a day, or even a couple of days, and see for himself the shocking, scandalous things that are going on at Garbutt under the contract let to this company.

**Mr. Hiley:** Weren't you told that we took the Winton job from them because of their poor performance at Garbutt? We are policing them every inch of the way. We learnt of this a couple of months ago, and we are riding them firmly to see that they are doing the job properly. We took the Winton job from them.

**Mr. AIKENS:** The Treasurer took the Winton job from them, but they had a bad reputation before they were given the Winton job and before they got the Garbutt job.

**Mr. Hiley:** On the contrary, they had been quite an acceptable tenderer to the Housing Commission previously. Garbutt is the first job they have fallen down on. It will be their last. They will never get another chance.

**Mr. AIKENS:** There is a case on in Tully this week, I think, involving £2,000 that they owe.

**Mr. Hiley:** That they owe us?

**Mr. AIKENS:** No. They were of bad repute and had rubber cheques bouncing all over North Queensland before they got the Garbutt job. They had been employing men on bonus work and adopting other award-dodging practices long before they got the Garbutt job.

Not only is that particular company well in the mind of the Housing Commission, but there are several others. Either the Jolly-living Building Company, Oxlade Drive, Brisbane, or Associated Enterprise Pty. Ltd., 37 Gailey Road, Taringa, Brisbane, has a contract at Wulguru.

**Mr. Hiley** interjected.

**Mr. AIKENS:** I understand that both of those firms have done quite a lot of work. I suggest that the Treasurer have a look at some of their jobs, particularly at the way they dodge the award provisions and the questionable tactics they adopt towards their employees.

**Mr. Newton:** It looks as if you have got yourself some State rental homes now! They will never sell those.

**Mr. AIKENS:** People take notice of me, that is evident by the way they vote for me at each election. If I were buying one of these houses at Garbutt that were constructed by the company that I have mentioned today I should want to know that I was paying only the Queensland Housing Commission price to have it built by a reputable firm.

(Time expired.)

**Mr. HANLON** (Baroona) (3.1 p.m.): The Treasurer explained the background to the Bill and pointed out that the only time it would be challenged by anyone in the Chamber would be on the rare occasions when obviously the Government without the support of Parliament tried to secure appropriation to enable them to continue over the period for which they sought Supply.

Although the passage of the Appropriation Bill is more or less a formal procedure, it has been the practice of previous Treasurers—and so far of the present Treasurer—to take the opportunity of bringing to the attention of Parliament, and of discussing in Parliament, some of the Government's ideas to deal with the very pressing problems confronting them, particularly those concerning

finance. One would expect that from the Treasurer, particularly when the Government are coming back fresh from an election.

I was rather disappointed that the Treasurer saw fit today to confine his remarks to more or less a cursory reference to decimal currency. It appears that he is beginning to develop a liking for the tendency that has been shown by other Liberal Ministers in their short periods of office. For instance, I refer to the Minister for Labour and Industry, who has some organisation or other which is described, I understand, by the name of S.M.O.L.A.C.—State Ministry of Labour Advisory Council. I am not going to condemn that organisation, which is supposed to advise him on industrial matters, but at the same time apparently it is not a sufficiently commendable organisation for the Minister to be able to come into the Chamber and tell us who the people are who serve on it. We are not told what type of advice they give him or the background of industrial matters at which they look.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order! Throwing papers around the Chamber like the hon. member for Townsville South is doing is most disorderly. I hope the hon. member will not do it again.

**Mr. Aikens:** I tried to throw a piece of paper into the waste paper basket and it missed.

**The CHAIRMAN:** That is still throwing paper about the Chamber, and I hope the hon. member will not do it again.

**Mr. HANLON:** One prominent person in the industrial field, Mr. Edgar Williams, of the A.W.U., apparently accepted the offer to serve on this committee with the idea of giving it a fair trial. Let me point out that I am not condemning people because they serve on S.M.O.L.A.C. but it should not be a secret organisation; it should not be a body on which people who are serving are not prepared to make it known that they are serving. Having originally decided to give it a fair trial, Mr. Williams recently has seen fit to declare this organisation to be suspect from the point of view of the average unionist.

Because of the attitude adopted by the Minister in the conduct of the body itself, and also because of certain attitudes the Minister has adopted in the dismissal of the authorisation of some mines check inspectors as industrial inspectors, Mr. Williams has been led to announce publicly—and I have my information not from Mr. Williams but from "The Worker" and the daily Press—that he is no longer prepared to serve on that body.

That is one tendency of the Minister for Labour and Industry—to rely on information and advice, whatever you might call it, from an organisation that apparently, for some reasons which are known only to himself, he is not prepared to make public either to the Parliament or to the people.

The Minister for Justice also has adopted a secretive attitude regarding a body that has been set up to advise the Government. This morning questions were asked of him about the Prices Advisory Board and he was evasive in his replies. When he was asked if the Board had urged re-control of commodities, when he was asked if they had asked for any de-control of commodities, he merely pointed out that it was the Governor in Council and not the members of the Advisory Board who made the actual decisions on de-control or re-control. That was not the point of the question at all, as anybody could see. The point of the question was that we, as members of this Parliament, wanted to know what decisions and advices had been conveyed to the Government by a body set up under an Act passed by this Parliament—the Prices Advisory Board.

We wanted to know what advices have been tendered by that body, which is a fairly representative one. Of course, it is not as representative as we on this side of the Chamber would like it to be. You will probably recall, Mr. Taylor, that we asked the Government to give the consumers representation on it, but they refused. As a matter of fact, the Minister told us that the people on the Board—the Under Secretary, Department of Labour and Industry, for one—I think it is Mr. Hoare—and the Director-General of Marketing for another—virtually represented the consumers and that it would be superfluous to have a consumers' representative on it. Obviously they are not representing the consumers because the Minister and the Government are not even prepared to tell us what these people have advised on such matters as price control, which they are dealing with from day to day.

I was not surprised then, although I was disappointed, that the Treasurer should confine his remarks to decimal currency. He raised the subject and more or less suggested that the Government were favouring the introduction of decimal currency on the report that had been prepared by the special committee appointed by them. My interpretation of the committee's report is that their prime interest in the subject of decimal currency was from the point of view of the State Government. On page 3 of its report the committee had this to say—

"The analysis of advantages and disadvantages that follows is directed chiefly to those affecting the State Government and its instrumentalities. It is possible that other sections of the community may enjoy other advantages, or suffer other disadvantages, or be affected to a different degree by those actually dealt with."

In other words, I think it is true to say that whilst I regard as very good the report by the committee that was appointed by the State Government to inquire into decimal

currency—and I agree substantially with what its members say from the point of view from which they approached the question—I do not think it is correct for the Treasurer to accept it necessarily as the report of a committee that examined decimal currency from the point of view of the whole community.

Indeed, the members of the committee themselves pointed out that it is very easy to exaggerate the gains that might accrue from the use of a decimal currency system, but the Treasurer this morning adopted the attitude that the committee had submitted a favourable report. The Commonwealth Government have also appointed a committee that has arrived at a decision favourable to the introduction of decimal currency, and apparently we now have to agree automatically to its introduction. The Commonwealth Government have not arrived at a decision themselves yet, I would point out.

The subject calls for a considerable amount of thought and, as the Deputy Leader of the Opposition pointed out, very close scrutiny to prevent exploitation of the average person by price increases and so on when and if decimal currency is introduced. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition also said that there will be plenty of opportunity in other debates to deal with the matter.

The Treasurer went on to warn hon. members that with the money available to the Government, taking into account continuing inflation and possible increases in costs, wages, and margins, the Government are unlikely to be able in the coming financial year to expand services to any great degree. In other words, he suggested that the Government would be able to maintain the services provided last year, but that it was unlikely that they could do much better.

The Premier said that final figures for the recent election were not to hand, but the Government have been in office for a full three-year term and it is apparent from the figures that they received no more votes this year than three years ago. Possibly they received fewer votes. If the Government consider that the result is a good advertisement for them, they are welcome to take that view. We have to take the Treasurer's statement that the Government think they will be able to do in the coming financial year, and probably in the remaining two years of their second and last term, no more than they have done during the last three years. As the Treasurer said this morning, 5,986 people are waiting for Housing Commission rental homes, and perhaps more than 1,000 others are waiting to purchase homes under the £250 deposit scheme. In addition, there is a great lack of money for assistance under the Workers' Dwelling scheme. Despite those facts, the Treasurer has said that the Government will not be able to make a greater effort.

The Treasurer referred also to the number of high schools in Brisbane. The Minister for Education is in the Chamber and he would realise the Government's problem in providing high schools. As a matter of fact, they cannot provide enough schools for the young people who are now going to school, and the Treasurer has said that it will not be very long before the students in their early teens will be leaving school and marrying and requiring homes. That will be happening at a time when, according to the Treasurer, the Government will not be able to give greater assistance than they are giving at the moment. It would appear that there will then be a lag of from 6,000 to 8,000 homes. If that is the best the Treasurer can offer, or the best the Commonwealth Government can offer, there is something radically wrong with both this Government and the Commonwealth Government. It has already become increasingly apparent to all Australians that there is something very much wrong with the Menzies Government, and this Government have to accept their share of responsibility for the shortage of funds for schools, housing, hospitals and other fundamental amenities that are now not receiving the necessary attention.

The only answer to our complaints is the Treasurer's statement, "If we have to spend more on houses or hospitals, what are we going to take it off?" If that attitude had been adopted in the years before uniform taxation, when the Queensland Government had control of their own revenue and income tax, we would not have had free hospitals today, nor would we have had many of the other services that were provided by Labour Governments. The same conditions applied in those days and to much the same degree. If the Government wanted to provide something extra they had to either find additional sources of revenue or take revenue from one project and divert it to another that required attention.

It is all very well for the Treasurer to say that in those days the Government had control of income tax and company tax, and that those taxes could be used to raise what was required. That is not correct, because in those days the Government were criticised by hon. members opposite when they were in Opposition. It was said that when we had control of taxation in Queensland we had a higher rate of taxation, particularly on higher incomes, and on companies, than any other State, and it was claimed that that drove people from this State to other parts of Australia.

**Mr. Dewar:** No doubt it did.

**Mr. HANLON:** No doubt it did. I accept what the hon. member says. I say that it probably did drive some land sharks, and speculative and exploiting people from this State to other parts of Australia, and while we drove them away we provided people with houses,

hospitals and schools, which this Government cannot do. Until the war years, we provided them with probably a better scheme for owning their own homes than any other Government in Australia. We did not have 6,000 people waiting for homes, as there are today, with no chance of getting them while this Government maintain their present attitude towards housing. The Treasurer is not justified in sitting back and saying, "That is all the finance we can get from the Commonwealth Government; that is the best we can do."

Both the Treasurer and the hon. member for Wavell have acknowledged that the Treasurer is in a better position with uniform tax than if he had control of income tax and was also able to tax the income of companies. If he had to compete with other States he would not be in as good a position as he is in today. He is in a better position than Labour Treasurers were in in the pre-war years, and even in the early war years, when they were trying to get finance to carry out what they considered necessary for hospitals, homes, schools, and so on.

The Treasurer has the responsibility of seeking other forms of revenue. I suppose he will say, "Where am I going to get it?" That is his responsibility as Treasurer of this Government. From an income tax point of view, I say he is getting a better deal under uniform taxation than he would if he had to raise his own taxes. I am not saying that the States as a whole are in a better position. There is no doubt that the Commonwealth Government are taking an extremely large portion of the taxation pool and the States are not getting their proper entitlements to deal with the fundamental things that are their responsibility. The Treasurer cannot say that he has been unfairly penalised on his proportionate rates of income tax under the taxation reimbursement formula of the Commonwealth Government. He has the responsibility of seeking other avenues of revenue, just as past Labour Governments, when they required money to extend hospitals, looked round and sought other avenues of revenue.

The State Governments will have to get together and try to find ways of getting additional revenue, which the Menzies Government is obviously not going to give them. It matters not at all to the Prime Minister that so many poor people are unable to get homes. It does not seem to have any effect on the Commonwealth Government when the various State Treasurers and Premiers go down to Canberra and produce figures showing the number of people waiting for homes. He merely tells them they are going to get so much for housing and other loan works, and so much in taxation reimbursement, and that is it. He is not doing anything to help them to overcome the problem.

The Treasurer has to look round in an effort to find in his own State extra revenue to bring into use for housing, schools and

hospitals. I think the States, as a whole, instead of meeting once a year before the Premiers' Conference, should try to get together more often and actively harass the Commonwealth and force them to give them the extra revenue they need. I know it is very difficult for them to get together, but they can do much more as six States with the one objective than each can do separately. They can find ways of raising revenue, some of which will no doubt conflict with the Commonwealth under the Commonwealth Constitution, but it will force the Commonwealth, perhaps, to give the States a better deal than they have been getting. If they do not do that, but merely adopt the attitude the Treasurer has indicated today—of saying, "That is all the money we have and we cannot do much more about it"—we shall find at the end of this Government's term that, instead of having 6,000 people waiting for rented homes, we will have 10,000 and we will not be much further advanced.

**Mr. Hiley:** Can you suggest any avenues that could be usefully explored?

**Mr. HANLON:** I have already pointed out that no doubt the Treasurer would ask me that question, but we have not at our command the resources that he has. If he had accepted the private member's motion that I moved a couple of years ago, asking him to introduce something that he said some years ago should be introduced—namely, a public accounts committee—hon. members on this side of the Chamber would have had access to the information available to the Treasurer. Then we might be prepared to try to put something definite before him. After all, he is the Treasurer of the Government who were returned to carry out the responsibilities of government for three years. It is his responsibility. I ask him now to tell us which other avenues he has explored and which he has rejected. I would not agree to the introduction of fruit machines or anything of that nature. I know that other State Governments—notably the Labour Government in New South Wales—have been forced through circumstances, through being denied reasonable treatment from the Commonwealth Government, to enter that type of field of revenue. I do not say that the Treasurer should do that here, but I should like to know, as the Committee should know, all the avenues for raising additional revenue that might be useful that he has studied in the past three years. The Bill now before us should present the opportunity for him to tell us that. There is something wrong when the people of Australia have been over-taxed by the Federal Government over the last six or seven financial years by about £400,000,000. That is what the Commonwealth Government have collected in excess of their requirements to return by way of loans to the States to build up the very restricted loan programme allowed the States and local authorities.

Despite the fact that Australians—and that includes Queenslanders—are paying additional taxation to that extent, the State Governments—and particularly the Queensland Government—have never been so far behind in catching up with the lag in fundamental needs, such as housing, hospitals and schools. Probably other hon. members will deal with schools more effectively than I could. Hon. members should study the figures of the Commonwealth Grants Commission on hospitalisation, in which Queensland has always had a proud record. I have not the latest figures, but over the early years of this Government, anyway, the expenditure per head on hospitals decreased, while in other States it rose.

**Mr. Hiley:** I wish you were right.

**Mr. Pizzey:** That does not prove anything, you know.

**Mr. HANLON:** It proves a great deal to me. According to the Commonwealth Grants Commission, the expenditure per head on hospitals and charities was 14s. 5d. in 1956-57. In 1957-58, the first year of Liberal-Country Party Government, it went down to 14s., or a decrease of 1s. 5d. In the same period New South Wales showed an increase of 18s. a head and Victoria an increase of 16s. 5d.

**Mr. Hiley:** What did they move up to?

**Mr. HANLON:** They moved up to 109s. 2d. At the same time, Victoria increased by 16s. 5d., South Australia by 4s. 11d., and Western Australia by 14s. 4d., which brought them within striking distance of Queensland—only 6s. behind—and Tasmania increased by 4s. 6d.

(Time expired).

**Mr. DEWAR (Wavell)** (3.26 p.m.): I should like to have 45 minutes at my disposal on this debate to give me an opportunity of replying to some of the comments made by the hon. member for Baroona.

**Mr. Walsh:** Did you say 45 minutes?

**Mr. DEWAR:** Yes. I have something to say, and I intend saying it. The whole basis of the argument put forward by the hon. member for Baroona lost sight completely of the great increase in population in this State since the war by immigration and natural increase. He deplored the fact that we were not providing, as he said, enough classrooms for our children. We are suffering now because of bad Government in Queensland for 30 years prior to this Government assuming office, and we have been straining in our Education vote to catch up the lag. When we became the Government there were 16,000 children in our high schools, and at the time of the election in May, 1960, there were 27,000 children, an increase of nearly 100 per cent. in our first term of office. We are still trying to

overcome the lag caused by the neglect of previous Labour administrations. I shall have more to say about that later.

Teenage drinking has received a good deal of publicity in the Press in the last few days, and I wish to make some comments on that subject. I do not support the contention that any one man has done more than another to fight teenage drinking, but one man who has done a great deal in a very practical way for the youth of our community is the Reverend Arthur Preston, a Methodist clergyman. His constructive approach to the problem has shown what can be done to occupy the time of teenagers, and he has drawn attention recently to the problem of teenage drinking.

Last week I motored to Canberra with my family in a caravan, and I heard on the A.B.C.'s "Guest of Honour" programme the views of Dr. Marvin Block, who is the head of the Alcoholism Committee of the American Medical Association. He gave some startling figures, which I noted at the time. He contended that we in Australia had 300,000 alcoholics, or 6 per cent. of our adult population. He said that this was equal to the number of alcoholics in the United States of America, and that it was exceeded in the world only by France. The figure is rather amazing when one considers that, according to Dr Block, the United States has more alcoholics than it has sufferers from cancer, tuberculosis, and polio, combined. He said that an alcoholic is anyone who has an adverse result every time he drinks, or the compulsive drinker who cannot stop once he starts. He said that one in every 15 of our children will grow up to be an alcoholic. In other words, if the average enrolment in our classrooms today is 45, three children in every one of those classes will grow up to be an alcoholic. He said that there are almost as many female alcoholics in Australia as there are male. What is the cost of this disease in loss to industry and in hospitalisation? Each year it is £40,000,000, and the greatest cost of all is in broken homes and heart-broken and bewildered children. I know of nothing that is so easy of procurement and that does so much harm. I have yet to find out what good it does.

As I see the problem there is need for action; indeed, there is great need for five positive actions—

- (1) A need for education.
- (2) A need for tightening of our laws.
- (3) A need for Government action.
- (4) A need for parental and adult action.
- (5) A need for assistance to church and other worth-while organisations who do so much good.

In the field of education let me quote from the Sydney "Daily Telegraph" of 13 August at page 13. One article indicates that school children beyond the primary stage in Western

Australia will receive temperance lessons at least once each term. It points out that the Education Department has issued that direction to headmasters of high and junior high schools. On the same page there is an article headed "Children 'should be warned'". It reads—

"'Children should be warned in school of alcoholism,' Dr. Marvin Block said yesterday."

The article continues—

"He suggested children should be told of the evils of alcoholism when they were 14 years old."

"Dr. Block said the biggest problem facing alcoholism research and treatment foundations was the education of the people."

Dr. Block went on to say—

"We must convince them of the truth before. Otherwise they will engage in experimentation and become involved in emotional conflicts and confusion. However, school teachers first must be versed thoroughly on alcoholism."

I could not agree more with Dr. Block and I could not applaud more the decision of the Western Australian Government to give education on this very important subject. It is time we showed our children the truth of it all. We should not leave them to grow up and experiment. It is amazing to me that some people in the community accept it as a mark of praise to have it said that we are a beer-drinking nation. "The Pub with no Beer" is fast becoming a national song. As I travelled from Goulburn to Canberra I even heard it sung in Italian.

Dealing with the next need—the need for the tightening of our laws—I refer the Committee to the report of the Committee on Youth Problems dated May, 1959, which was tabled in Parliament last October. At page 11 of its report the committee drew attention to various aspects of alcohol and youth. It was pointed out that we found children in beer-gardens. A great deal of publicity has been given to this matter by both Brisbane daily newspapers. All are agreed that it is high time something was done about it, and I could not agree more. I just cannot accept that children should become accustomed to liquor in their early years. I cannot accept the fact that it is being impressed on the minds of children that alcohol is part of our daily life. Is it any wonder that we can expect that one in every 15 of our kiddies will end up an alcoholic? That proportion does not count those who perhaps will go to extremes with drink but not necessarily become alcoholics. That figure covers only those who will discover that alcohol is a disease. A further percentage of the 15 will come under the influence of drink and probably have their lives blighted thereby. It is wrong in principle that we as a Government or as a community should accept this situa-

tion. If parents have not the ability to bring up their children in a proper way, we should not set aside our governmental right to step in. It is high time that we legislated to ensure that children of tender years are not allowed to frequent these places.

The second comment that we made in our Youth Report on alcohol and youth dealt with the ease with which it appears young people are able to obtain liquor. That has been the essence of Press reports in the last few days. Only on Tuesday, a case was reported in the Press of two youths of about 15 to 17 years of age who were fined £10 for being under the influence of drink. It is a sad commentary on our whole system that our young people, who are the very life-blood and the future citizens of our State, are found in this situation at such tender years.

We also drew attention to the fact that whilst our laws forbid the use of drink at public functions, such as balls and public dances, it was fast becoming a practice for the pre-ball party to become the major part of the evening. In fact, many of the people who are attending these functions do not arrive until about 10 or 11 o'clock, and many are already well and truly under the influence of alcohol. That is defeating the whole purpose of the legislation, and it is high time that some action was taken with regard to it.

I believe that the Government should investigate thoroughly the whole question of alcohol and youth. There is a fantastic acceptance of the alleged major role that liquor plays in our community life. We find some people who even measure citizenship for the native population in the right to drink. It appals me that this alleged major role of alcohol has become so important in the minds of so many people. As I said, it is a sad commentary on the human race.

The fourth comment is on the need for parental and adult action. I was stopping in a hotel at Cairns about five weeks ago, when in the North on the Spastic Children's Appeal Committee business, and I saw a mother at a table order a beer for her two teenage children; and they were only just into their teens.

I have heard it said by mothers and fathers that this is a sane method of teaching children to drink. I rather doubt that there is a sane method of teaching youth to drink. I have heard it said, "Give him a beer and make a man of him." I remember one family in Kedron in which the third generation is of my age. The grandfather had five children; three are dead. Two of them died as alcoholics.

One sees people going to hotels on Friday nights and Saturdays and thronging around these places. This obvious congregating at hotels gives children the wrong idea. It leads them to believe that the most important thing in life is to be able to grow up and go to a hotel and drink.

**Mr. Graham:** That is rubbish; talk sense.

**Mr. DEWAR:** I am talking sense.

**Mr. Hanlon:** How do you account for the position in France? They have a sane method of drinking and the highest figures of alcoholism in the world.

**Mr. DEWAR:** I am talking about the attitude of mind that is created—that it is the most important thing in life for children growing up to be men enough to have a glass of beer. We have a responsibility, one to the other. We all have that responsibility in any society, one to the other.

**Mr. Graham** interjected.

**Mr. DEWAR:** I do not think we are. As St. Paul said, "If meat offend a brother, give up meat."

**Mr. Graham:** Where do you do your drinking?

**Mr. DEWAR:** Water can be found everywhere and that is what I drink. I prefer water. I do not believe in putting it into a barrel until it goes off and then drinking it. I drink fresh water.

The fifth step is assistance of church organisations of all denominations—Protestant, Roman Catholic and Jewish. They are all doing a fine job in training young people. That can be said also of the Y.M.C.A., the Y.W.C.A., the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides Associations, and many other similar organisations.

Governments are spending millions of pounds every year in building child guidance clinics, which in themselves do a wonderful job, on probation and welfare officers, and juvenile courts in an effort to bring back on the right road those who have left it, but let us spend money on the 95 per cent. who do not go wrong and at the same time possibly prevent those who may be going off the right road from doing so.

In Victoria about 4 years ago a Youth Organisations Assistance Committee was set up, and a fund was created. That committee is presided over by a chairman, an experienced youth worker, who has the assistance of three Government nominees and five other persons connected with youth work. The allocations have been increased, and today the Victorian Government are allocating approximately £100,000 to this fund. It is used to cover the cost of leadership training and other youth work within the confines of organisations that have shown that they are able to help young people or give them the guidance they need. The problem is being tackled in Victoria in a manner worthy of the greatest commendation, and I think something along the same lines will soon have to be done in Queensland. I ask the Government to consider at the earliest opportunity, having regard to the finances available to the Government, the setting aside of a sum of money so that youth organisations within and outside the

churches can embark on a programme of leadership training. There are excellent organisations in this State, working for and with youth, that do an amazing job. Prevention is better than cure, and any money spent in this work to prevent young people going off the right road and to help them to keep to the straight and narrow path would be well worth while. Once they leave the right track, money has to be spent on corrective measures to rehabilitate them and correct their anti-social behaviour. Let us provide the money for organisations that have shown they have the ability to do the job. Let us provide money for the facilities that will correct anti-social behaviour.

**Mr. BURROWS** (Port Curtis) (3.44 p.m.):  
Mr. Low—

**Mr. WALSH:** Mr. Low, I rose to seek your call when the hon. member for Wavell rose to speak. I understand that the arrangement was that there would be a speaker from the Queensland Labour Party. I understand that the Treasurer will require his time.

**The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Low): Order! The hon. member for Port Curtis.

**Mr. BURROWS:** I draw the Treasurer's attention to a statement by Mr. Leonard, general manager of Ampol Petroleum Ltd., reported in "The Courier-Mail" of 11 August last, that his company was considering the building of a £15,000,000 refinery at Port Alma. It concluded by saying that Port Alma was ideally suited because it is the only harbour on the Queensland coast with the depth of water suited to tankers. The following day "The Courier-Mail" made further comments about the depth of water in the various harbours, and evidently Captain Masterman, who is the Port Master for Queensland, and head of the department, attending to these matters, was approached. He made a statement that the comparative depths of the two harbours were—Gladstone, 28-27 berthing depth; 23 feet channel depth; Port Alma, 29-27 feet berthing depth and 22½ feet channel depth. Then he said, "I am neutral in this battle. I do not enter into it." If Captain Masterman was neutral in the matter, his statements about the depths were not honest.

**Mr. Hiley:** Would they be the depths set out in the "Admiralty Sailing Directions"?

**Mr. BURROWS:** No, they are not. I made inquiries, and the Admiralty chart gives a depth at Gladstone of 27 ft. minimum. A survey was recently carried out by the department's boat "Ferret." It is not yet official, but it has been disclosed unofficially and it shows Gladstone as having a depth of 28 ft. The Treasurer will remember that when he was in Gladstone he attended a harbour board meeting. I was sitting opposite him and I raised the point that the chairman of the Rockhampton Harbour Board had maliciously

quoted information. (Government laughter.) This might be humorous to Government members, but it is the livelihood of people and it will affect the lives of the taxpayers in Queensland for many years.

**Mr. Walsh:** Have you found out what they did with that special report?

**Mr. BURROWS:** If the hon. member found out what they did with those postal votes in Bundaberg, he may not be sitting there as conscientiously as he believes.

**Mr. Walsh:** I have a lot to learn from you.

**Mr. BURROWS:** Anything I know I learnt from the hon. member, and I learnt it from a good master. It is not a case of the student outdoing the tutor; he is still my master; I concede that.

**Mr. Walsh:** I was trying to help you when I asked you if you found out what has been done with the Port Committee's report.

**Mr. BURROWS:** I have a note of that, and if the hon. member will let me alone he will be on his feet sooner.

The point I was going to make is that Captain Masterman knows as well as anybody in Australia the respective depths of those two ports. Captain Masterman was present when the Treasurer was in Gladstone and I raised the point about the chairman of the Rockhampton Harbour Board saying that Gladstone had not the depth that it actually has. That could have arisen through the sailing directions containing that information. I have a copy of them here.

When Captain Masterman quoted those figures he knew that that was the official record, but he said that day in the harbour board office, "What do you want to worry about? No boat has ever had any difficulty in getting into your harbour, and everybody knows that you have a much greater depth of water there than is necessary. We could alter the leads to give you a much greater depth but it has not been necessary." That was the excuse. And very dramatically the Treasurer said, "Good God, man, you are miles ahead of Port Alma now, and they will never catch you."

**Mr. Walsh:** He still thinks that.

**Mr. BURROWS:** He may still think so, but he certainly is doing his best to drag us back—or his Government are. I do not want to be personal in the matter.

Captain Masterman said, "I am neutral in the matter." If he was neutral in the matter, why did he not say when he was first approached, "I make no comment."? He is not a child; he is not unsophisticated in these matters; he is a very highly-paid and prominent public servant and he has been approached many times previously.

**Mr. Hiley:** Would you mind reading again the channel depths that he gave?

**Mr. BURROWS:** Gladstone, 23 feet; Port Alma, 22 feet 6 inches.

**Mr. Hiley:** In other words, according to that statement, he gave Gladstone more water than Port Alma.

**Mr. BURROWS:** Yes, but if he had been honest he would have qualified it and told the public the full depth of water at Gladstone. He knew, much better than the Treasurer and I knew—and the Treasurer knows as well as I, if not better than I—that Gladstone has at least 27 feet. That is the point I want to make; I want it ventilated; that is why I am on my feet. The Treasurer knows that the leads are where they were put many years ago when the average draught of ships was much less than it is today. It was quite enough then but, with the increased draught of ships today, it is necessary to have deeper water. So approaches have been made, over the last few years in particular, for the alteration of the leads into Gladstone Harbour, so that if they are followed the channel would be a minimum of 27 feet at low water. As I said before, I take strong exception to Captain Masterman's making such a statement; at the very least, it is very misleading.

The hon. member for Bundaberg mentioned the Fadden Report on Central Queensland ports. Everybody in the Chamber knows that two reports were made on Central Queensland ports. Originally the Government decided that the first committee should report on all Central Queensland ports, but pressure was brought to bear on the Government and the first report was confined to Rockhampton's port. Then, as a political sop to Gladstone, a further committee was appointed to deal with all ports in Central Queensland, under the chairmanship of Sir Arthur Fadden, with two very prominent and able public servants—an engineer from the office of the Co-ordinator-General of Public Works, and the Government Actuary, Mr. Rutherford. Nobody will quarrel with the appointment of those three gentlemen to that committee. They were well qualified and well selected, and they did their work conscientiously. No doubt the inquiry involved the Government in considerable expense, and hon. members realise, I am sure, that a great deal of work was done behind the scenes, quite apart from the work actually done by members of the committee.

Many people, believing that the Government genuinely and sincerely wanted a report from people qualified to give an opinion on the merits or demerits of the various ports, went to much trouble to collect information. Men whose time is just as valuable as that of any politician, and men who are making a far greater contribution to the future of Queensland, perhaps, than any of us, compiled that information and gave evidence. The committee painstakingly applied itself to its task and, from what I saw of it in Bundaberg and Gladstone, worked very long hours, and eventually made its report. That

report has been in the hands of the Government for quite a long time, and only the other day, following some controversy about the merits of the respective ports, the Treasurer evidently was asked by "The Courier-Mail" when the report was likely to be made available. According to "The Courier-Mail"—I ask the Treasurer to deny this if it is not correct—he allegedly replied, "Probably it never will be made public."

**Mr. Hiley:** That is right.

**Mr. BURROWS:** We have the Treasurer admitting that it will probably never be made public. In my opinion that makes democracy a farce. Although politically I could not be opposed more to any man than to Sir Arthur Fadden, I concede that he is an able man and a man whose time is worth much more than the average man's time, and in their own particular spheres the other two men were equally efficient and capable, and their time also was valuable. I do not want to make assumptions, but we are left with nothing but the assumption that the report was not what the Government wished and that they consigned it to the wastepaper basket without letting the public, who, after all paid the cost of preparing the report, know what was in it. I do not know whether it condemned or favoured Gladstone, but as the member for Port Curtis I demand that it be made public and laid on the table of the House. I challenge the Treasurer and the Government to do that. I should also be very pleased if the Treasurer would indicate how much it actually cost the Government, and when he goes into those figures we must consider, in addition to the actual cost to the taxpayer, what it cost Sir Arthur Fadden and the other two members of the committee in time for which they will never be paid. They did not expect any monetary reward, because they did it in the interests of the State. What about the multitude of witnesses who in a lesser degree went to a great deal of trouble and were willing to give of their time to make available information that they thought would be of assistance to the committee and the Government? If those people are to be treated with contempt, democracy is being brought into contempt. We hear a great deal of talk about the dangers of Communism; the best way to preserve democracy is to respect it. The Government show very little respect for democracy when they consign to the wastepaper basket reports by men of such calibre.

**Mr. WALSH (Bundaberg) (4.1 p.m.):** Even though the Chairman of Committees is temporarily absent, I should like to extend my congratulations to him on his appointment. I am sure there is unanimity of opinion among hon. members who have served under him as Chairman of Committees that he will continue to carry out his duties in the same manner as he has in the past three years. In the course of my remarks on another occasion I said that in my

opinion he is tolerant, and that if any complaint could be made it is that perhaps he was over-tolerant on occasions. I was paying him a compliment when I said that. He said so himself in other words this morning. On many occasions the Chairman of Committees could make it very difficult for hon. members while they were speaking if he rigidly applied Standing Orders. But I was somewhat perturbed at one statement made from the chair by the Chairman of Committees when he said that, because I drew attention to an incident that occurred in the life of the previous Parliament about which no action was taken until after a Press report appeared, he would act in a similar way in the future. I think that is setting a very dangerous precedent.

If there are to be people spying on hon. members, surely there are already enough amongst the Liberal Party! Perhaps because of his youth, I might suggest the hon. member for Sherwood. He is young and active, so perhaps he might be given these duties. The Press are given the privilege of sitting in the Chamber and that they should be permitted to publish statements regarding the conduct of an hon. member and then for the Chairman of Committees to act upon it is indeed a very dangerous precedent. I doubt whether that would be tolerated in any other English-speaking Parliament in the world. I make these remarks in the hope that upon reflection the Chairman will see the difficult position that could arise if what he has said should apply. On the occasion referred to I do not know whether the Chairman heard the small wireless set in possession of the then hon. member for South Brisbane, but in any case I do not know how the Press will get on should any hon. member have one of the latest tiny sets fitted into his spectacle frames. I do not deny the Press their right to comment on whatever might occur in the Chamber—that is their right—but they would be better employed publishing the more factual side of the debates.

Having said that about the Press, I pass briefly to a few of the matters that have been mentioned. The hon. member for Port Curtis, who has just resumed his seat, made some reference to a report that was tendered to the Treasurer, a report that was compiled by a committee under the chairmanship of Sir Arthur Fadden. It is true, as the hon. member for Port Curtis has said, that there was a committee prior to that although it would be more in the nature of a subordinate committee of officials from the Treasury Department.

I thought that once the Government saw fit to appoint a person like Sir Arthur Fadden, with his standing in the public life of the community, together with two other prominent personalities in the Public Service, they were setting out to see that a report would be prepared on the development of ports in Central Queensland, one that would be at least some guide, not only to the Government, but to Parliament.

Any criticism that might be brought forward on the development of either of these ports should not be pigeonholed, and I think the Government, and the Treasurer particularly, owe it to the House to have the report of that committee tabled here. It does not matter which particular locality it favours. Surely the Government cannot have anything to hide in a report that has been compiled by such a body, and, if I might say so here, I give them credit for setting up the committee under the chairmanship of Sir Arthur Fadden. I would concede to him that he would be at least one of the personalities in this State with a vast knowledge of the port development throughout Queensland. He would be quite competent to examine all the data that would be placed before him by any of the experts, whether commercial, banking, or shipping, or from the Department of Harbours and Marine. I have a recollection that he appeared on behalf of the Mackay Harbour Board many years ago before a commission of enquiry that was appointed to go into the question of the development of Mackay Harbour, and he was a tremendous assistance to that commission. His contributions can be seen in the reports of subsequent debates in this Chamber. They show clearly that he had a good grip of the subject. However, the Treasurer probably wants to continue this brawl between Gladstone and Rockhampton.

**Mr. Hiley:** It might be that I do not want to pour petrol on the embers.

**Mr. WALSH:** If the Treasurer is looking for a remedy, I suggest that he table the report. If it favours Rockhampton it is no good Gladstone complaining about it. On the other hand, if it favours Gladstone it is no good Rockhampton complaining about it. Is that not the way to settle the dispute? It is no good taking notice here of either the hon. member for Port Curtis or myself, or even of the Treasurer. Our views would be regarded as being sewn up in some way with the political policy of our respective parties.

Knowing something of the two ports, I can well believe that the depth of the water is very important in any discussion regarding port development. However, I realise that there are many other factors to be considered in the matter. I would be very interested in reading the report, particularly because of my association with the Treasury Department for a period of nearly 6 years, when I had to administer the various Acts dealing with harbour development.

Before dealing with the Treasurer's introduction of the Bill, I shall refer to the speech of the hon. member for Wavell. The only thing of which I complain is the manner in which he submitted his proposals. I do not think any hon. member could object to the subject matter of his speech or his remarks about alcoholism, particularly among young people. There is nothing more distressing

than to see teenagers getting off the track through drink, and I quite agree with the hon. member that there is an obligation on every public man to identify himself with any organisation, church or otherwise, which is working against this evil or publishing propaganda to prevent it. In that regard I commend the Director-General of Public Health, Dr. Fryberg, for his very informative and interesting article recently published in the "Telegraph." The more we have of that type of propaganda, which can be assimilated by parents in their own interests and in the interests of their families, the greater will be the benefit, but while much can be said about alcoholism do not let us overlook other dangers such as addiction to drugs. Australia is becoming a nation of pill addicts. Those with a toothache or a thumbache immediately resort to a tablet out of a bottle. Statistics indicate that in America this form of addiction is one of the serious diseases of the nation. The danger in this country could become as great as alcoholism.

The Treasurer said the Bill was in the usual form. He supplied details of the amounts required to continue the services provided by the Government until the final Appropriation Bill is introduced. Normally the Treasurer would give an outline of the manner in which the money had been expended to the present time and what the Government proposed to do within the next few months, although I know he is not obliged to supply that information.

**Mr. Windsor:** You can get that in the Budget.

**Mr. WALSH:** That is so, and it would be a fairly dull sort of budget if we did not receive an outline of the Government's future programme, but the Treasurer understands my point.

**Mr. Hiley:** You never did it. You never gave such an outline on such an occasion.

**Mr. WALSH:** What is that?

**Mr. Hiley:** Never in your life.

**Mr. WALSH:** I have been accused frequently in this House of not missing an opportunity of getting in a bit of propaganda, but I can only hope that the Treasurer will look up "Hansard" and read for himself the lengthy details and figures I gave on previous occasions when introducing an Appropriation Bill, in order to show how money had been expended over a period of 5 or 10 years, on developmental and other work. I never hesitated to put it on record.

**Mr. Hiley:** You never gave any indication of how you were going to spend the money you were asking for. You used to beat the drum about things you had done for 20 years.

**Mr. WALSH:** No.

**Mr. Hiley:** Of course you did.

**Mr. WALSH:** I know that the law of libel does not apply to discussions in the Chamber, but I feel like suing the Treasurer for defamation on this occasion, as his remarks are defamatory of me. I have never missed an opportunity to paint the brightest picture.

**Mr. Pizzey:** About what has been done.

**Mr. WALSH:** And what was likely to happen in the future, and the Treasurer has done the same thing on other occasions.

I am not complaining about the interesting outline on decimal currency the Treasurer gave this morning. He has on previous occasions made many speeches on subjects of interest to himself and other hon. members. Those speeches are worth having on record, particularly when they are made by a man who understands the subject. I suppose I must accept his assessment of me. I remember the Treasurer on one occasion saying to me that my real fault was that I had a very suspicious mind. I have to admit that even this morning—interested as I was in the Treasurer's outline of the committee's report on decimal currency—lurking in the back of my mind was a suspicion that he had laid a trap for the unwitting to come into, to talk about it, and overlook the things that should be talked about, such as the Government's neglect and bad handling of the finances of the State. He did not get away with it. I was inclined to think that the Deputy Leader of the Opposition had fallen for the trap, because he took up a good deal of his time on it. Nevertheless, it was a very interesting talk, and I am sure it was appreciated by all hon. members.

**Mr. Hiley:** Probably it would have been better if I had talked of such things as wireless sets.

**Mr. WALSH:** At least I have a lead to talk about. The Chairman of Committees gave me that lead when he indicated that in the future he was going to adopt a certain course, which earlier I said was a particularly dangerous one. The Treasurer does not get over it that way. Some three years ago, in 1957, the Government came within a fortnight of the end of their financial resources, as it were, following the break-up of the Labour Government.

**Mr. Hiley:** Not a fortnight; two or three days.

**Mr. WALSH:** I thought the Treasurer said it was a couple of weeks. However, I will accept the period of two or three days. That confirms everything said on the floor of this Chamber the very night the Treasurer, together with the other people on this side of the House, took the stand and voted the Government out. But we warned them of that. I will let that go for the time being.

The Government almost got themselves into a very untidy mess due to somebody's handling of the repairs to Parliament House. It would have been too bad if they had been

going on for another two or three weeks and the Government had had to postpone the opening of Parliament. The Treasurer would again have found himself short of finance for the Public Service.

**Mr. Newton:** There is nothing wrong with day labour.

**Mr. WALSH:** It is not the day labour that is to be blamed for this. The Government suddenly decided to put on a big splash and spend considerable sums on Parliament House, without calculating whether they had enough finance available for it. The previous year the Treasurer made a great boast that he was going into deficit finance to avoid the dismissal of Government employees. I realise that is a good political boast, but the Treasurer knows as well as I do that one day it must catch up with him. As a matter of fact, it has caught up with him. Unless something happens between the Commonwealth and the States there will be great difficulty in the future. It is ironic that at the time the Treasurer was expounding that point of view, he had no less a personality than the Prime Minister of Australia taking the opposite view in the Federal House when he made it clear that if this Government continued to go into deficit finance they would be only pawning their financial future. The Treasurer does not disagree.

I am not unmindful of the Treasurer's problems, but he is making them no easier. The Commonwealth will make it more and more difficult if they can, and find more ways of catching up with their powers under uniform taxation. That is a fact and the Treasurer knows it. He knows that, if you continue to go into deficit and you are still limited in your loan funds, you have to do a good deal of pruning of future works. Then the sackings go on. So, while in the early stage of an inexperienced Government they felt very happy because, with the financial resources that had been built up over the years by previous Labour Governments, they were able to hang on for at least three years, trouble now lies ahead of them.

It is no good the Treasurer asking hon. members on this side of the Chamber to suggest new avenues of taxation for the Government to tap. That is the Government's responsibility, as it was when we were in office. The Treasurer and his colleagues cannot, on the one hand, go beating about the bush waving flags and telling everybody that they are going to reduce taxation, particularly on the land tax fight that is on now, and then, on the other hand, squeal about deficits. I know the Treasurer will hang onto every shilling he can from now on. He will have to. He cannot go out having earned the name of the greatest tragedy in the history of Queensland, and I should not like to see him go out as the tragic Treasurer. At least he has the problem ahead of him.

The Treasurer recently announced that there was a small deficit. I think in round

figures it was £165,000. He knows that that is not the real deficit. True, that is the figure that has been presented to the public, but it will be more interesting when we study the Financial Statement, the financial tables, and, finally, the Auditor-General's Report. I take it that the Treasurer will be just as forthright as he was on the previous occasion, when he said that there was a deficit of £1,190,000 and that they had then transferred from the Succession and Stamp Duties Suspense Account the exact amount of that deficit. I should say the Treasurer in his own way has done a little bit of juggling like that this time so I shall be looking forward to hearing him. If he does not tell us how he has juggled it—

**Mr. Nicklin:** There is one thing about it—the Treasurer always tells you what he does.

**Mr. WALSH:** Yes. We always did, too.

**Mr. Nicklin:** That's a fairy story.

**Mr. WALSH:** We never had to raid the trust funds or special funds or the suspense account to balance the budget.

**Mr. Nicklin:** Never heard of the Main Roads Fund, eh?

**Mr. WALSH:** The Main Roads Fund! The Premier knows it very well. Even though it was before my time, I still know the history of it. That was merely a budgetary adjustment, and the Treasurer knows it. That was properly provided for—and the Main Roads Fund never finally suffered at all.

But in this case, with all the talk about simplicity in financial returns and documents to be submitted by the Treasurer, they are becoming more and more difficult for the average hon. member to follow, only because the Treasurer has closed up so many trust and special funds; they have disappeared altogether. Now it is difficult for hon. members to trace where the funds are going. Queensland was the only State in Australia with so many trust funds.

**Mr. Hiley:** That's right. You had socks everywhere.

**Mr. WALSH:** A good thing.

**Mr. Hiley:** You filled those socks in years in which you had unemployment, which is a dreadful thing.

**Mr. WALSH:** We did no such thing.

**Mr. Hiley:** My word!

**Mr. WALSH:** The beauty of that is that, if that is the case, never at any stage in this Chamber while I was Treasurer did the Opposition rise and complain about the unemployment in Queensland.

**Mr. Hiley:** What! What about the time I likened you to Judas?

**Mr. WALSH:** What about the time I likened the Treasurer to Lucifer? He had better look that one up. At least it could be

said that there was full employment while Labour Governments were in office, and, with few exceptions, there were balanced budgets. I look forward to the presentation of the financial statement, and I hope that the Treasurer is as frank this time as he was last time.

**Mr. RAMSDEN (Merthyr) (4.26 p.m.):** This afternoon, if time permits, I should like to bring to the attention of the Committee one or two things to which my attention was drawn on my recent visits to other parts of Queensland, particularly the north and the north-west.

We have in Queensland 18 experimental stations under the control of the Department of Agriculture and Stock. Thirteen of those stations are financed from the Consolidated Revenue of the State and five of them are financed from special Trust Funds, and it is about the financial arrangements and set-up of some of these 18 experimental stations that I should like to speak this afternoon. I want to make it quite clear that my remarks do not apply to those experimental stations that are financed from trust funds, where the income from the sale of produce, including cattle, goes back into the trust funds. They apply to the stations that are financed from Consolidated Revenue. The stations are at Ayr, Biloela, Coolum, Gatton, Hermitage, Kairi, Millaroo, Theodore, Walkamin, Maroochy, Redlands, Kamerunga, and South Johnstone. For the year 1959-1960, the income from the sale of produce (other than the sale of cattle, sheep, and pigs, which amounted to £12,789, and was paid into a special trust fund to purchase and to breed better stock and to pay for feed for the stock) was paid into Consolidated Revenue. The income from the sale of produce paid into Consolidated Revenue from these experimental stations amounted to £10,173, and to keep the record straight I quote the following figures showing the income from the sale of milk, cream, poultry, etc.—

Regional Experimental Station	Income from Sale of Produce £
Ayr	217
Biloela	1,993
Coolum	422
Gatton	—
Hermitage	694
Kairi	3,591
Millaroo	1,813
Theodore	620
Walkamin	—
Maroochy	791
Redlands	32
Kamerunga	—

Hon. members might well be wondering why I am quoting these figures. All these stations cost a considerable amount to maintain, but I believe, and I know that most reasonable hon. members believe, that the maintenance costs are a most necessary charge on the State, particularly in a State

with such varying climatic and agricultural scales as we have in Queensland, if the State is to progress. I believe that each one of these experimental stations is doing a very fine job in improving the agricultural output and the stock output in Queensland. In years gone by the farmer, the man on the land, was very sceptical about the value of these stations. He looked at the experimental station and wondered what it was all about. His general attitude was, "What does a white-collar worker, a research worker, or a scientist know about the problems of the man on the land?"

**Mr. Davies:** You agree that Labour Governments established the stations, and you can now see the wisdom of their action.

**Mr. RAMSDEN:** I will not waste my time by answering the hon. member for Maryborough, who is only trying to gain some political advantage. There has been a marked change in the attitude of the man on the land, particularly in the years since 1939-1945. It is quite different today. The man on the land now is watching with very keen appreciation the experiments being carried out on experimental farms throughout the length and breadth of the State at a cost far beyond his own limited resources. Many farmers in areas where research stations are located are planning to take advantage of the research carried out in their district. In Atherton the hon. member for Tablelands gave of his time to illustrate to me the great need for the reform that I intend to urge. Although I realise that the Treasurer will be pinched for money in the next financial year, I hope that he will give favourable consideration to what I am confident would be for the betterment of the State and for the man on the land. The experimental stations are doing very good work within their limited allocation of funds. They could do a much better job had they more money to draw on.

I suggest to both the Minister for Agriculture and Forestry and the Treasurer that a trust fund be set up to receive the proceeds of the sale of produce, other than livestock, which comes from the experimental stations, such fund to be used, on the recommendation of the Minister for Agriculture and Forestry, to purchase any particular item or service, or to finance any particular act of research that may at some time or other become necessary on some isolated instance or occasion. Let me illustrate that. I had the very great pleasure of spending most of the day with Dr. Maruff at Nerada plantation. Dr. Maruff is doing what the Department of Agriculture and Forestry will accept as a very fine job—and it goes beyond what is being done by the department—in the raising of tea. He is doing it entirely at his own expense. I do not think I will embarrass him by saying that so keen is he on his project, so interested is he in producing a new crop that can be grown in the slack season of the sugar industry, that for

three weeks he spent from his own pocket £220 a day to clear virgin jungle country to set up his tea plantation. He has pointed out that the tea plantation experiments at South Johnstone are not being produced to their best advantage. They are not being used to their best advantage because we have got beyond the day when it is necessary to ascertain what type of tea will grow in Queensland or under what conditions it will grow. I do not know who sponsored it, but a few days ago an article appeared in the Press from which it was quite obvious the writer had had talks with officers of the Department of Agriculture and Forestry and was sold the idea that we in Australia or Queensland would not be using Australian tea within a reasonable time because of the high cost of harvesting the crop.

I believe that if Dr. Maruff's experiment is a success—and I have no reason to doubt it—we could see Australian tea produced in Queensland in quantity within the next decade. However, there is a great need for the experimental farm at South Johnstone to intensify its experiments in relation to production if we are to help in the production of tea, because the real difficulty is not growing tea but harvesting it.

The main question is, how can we compete with eastern countries with a low standard of living and a low standard of wage? In the Soviet, this has been solved by a machine that will harvest tea. But it must be grown in a different manner from that in which it is grown in Assam, India, and Ceylon, where the trees are spaced as apple trees are in an orchard, so that the pickers can go between them and pick by hand. In Australia, the secret of growing tea is to grow it in hedges with the automatic picker harvesting it by running along on each side of the hedge and plucking the tender leaves from the top.

If my suggestion for a special trust fund for experimental stations could be implemented by using the proceeds of sales of their products, I believe we could give the South Johnstone undertaking great impetus and assistance in the development of what could be a new major industry in Queensland.

It is quite easy to see that normal departmental estimates spread over the number of stations I have mentioned would not run to buying and importing special equipment from the Soviet such as would be necessary if this problem is to be faced with reality. If a small trust fund of some £10,000—which, after all, is a mere fleabite in the £100,000,000 turnover of the State—could be set aside to be used for experimental stations for particular projects, I believe we should see a vast improvement in the type of administration and research which is going on. I commend, firstly to the Treasurer that he make provision in the Budget for such things, and secondly, I commend it to the Minister for Agriculture and Forestry.

I now mention another matter that has caused me some concern. I speak about it because of the need from a tourist point of view and I hope on this one I can get the sympathy and consideration of the Minister in charge of tourism.

Whilst I was in the North I had the privilege of spending a full day on Magnetic Island, and some of the more important problems of the island were brought to my notice for attention. Normally, I suppose these things are just matters that affect local interests, but I feel quite certain that in this instance, because of the immense growth of tourism in Queensland, some special attention must be paid to this problem.

The normal population of Magnetic Island is 1,000, but in the tourist season the population increases three-fold and becomes 3,000. I am very concerned about the fact that medical services are not available in case of accident or sudden illness. In the interests of tourism the Government must do something. The hon. member for Townsville South seems to be treating the subject very flippantly. He is evidently doing so because Magnetic Island is not in his electorate. The seriousness of the position was revealed recently when a person on the island had a heart attack. Assistance from the mainland was urgently needed, but the only way this sick person could be taken to the Townsville hospital was by R.A.A.F. crash launch stationed at Townsville.

**Mr. Aikens:** That has been going on for years.

**Mr. RAMSDEN:** The hon. member says that the crash launch has been doing it for years, but what he does not mention is that a guarantee of £90 was required before the crash launch would take this seriously ill man to Townsville. In addition, it was stated that if the call came after half past 4 in the afternoon the crash launch would not be available to pick up the sick person. If we are to develop tourism on this island which predominantly exists on tourism, we shall have to give Magnetic Island something in the way of medical assistance. Local people who are very interested in the matter have suggested one or two alternatives. The first is that some form of ambulance centre should be established. The land is available for it and £400 is in hand towards the cost of the building. Alternatively, they suggest that help from the hospital board might be invoked and that a sister at the end of a stretch of night duty might be prepared to take a month's holiday free of expense on Magnetic Island, provided she was on call for emergencies or urgent cases.

**Mr. Aikens:** And work 24 hours a day while she is on holidays—a typical Tory statement.

**Mr. RAMSDEN:** In spite of the comment of the hon. member for Townsville South,

I put forward those suggestions by the people who live on the island. They are not the suggestions of someone who talks constantly about the North and then attempts to knock it. I commend the ideas to the Treasurer and the other Ministers whose departments are involved.

**Mr. DAVIES** (Maryborough) (4.43 p.m.): I was very disappointed in the speech we heard from the Treasurer today. Undoubtedly, if the Commonwealth Government were a Labour Government and were treating this Government as the present Commonwealth Government are treating them, his speech would have been entirely different and he would have revealed his real thoughts. No-one would realise better than the Treasurer the seriousness of the situation and the grave problems which confront this country, and which have resulted from the financial relationship between the Commonwealth and the States. It is most regrettable that the Government have not faced up to this situation. The Treasurer should have given us some details as to the negotiations that have taken place between the Commonwealth and the States and his comments on the last conference. He should have supplied details on the effect of the present relationship. That applies also to the various members of the Government who have spoken. We have had interesting dissertations upon many matters, such as high schools, which is quite an important matter. I had intended to deal at length with the Government's failure to influence Mr. Menzies, as the leader of the Commonwealth Government, in his attitude towards making further grants to assist educational development in the Commonwealth. I went to a good deal of trouble to prepare an argument on that subject, but I shall reserve it for either the Budget debate or the Address-in-Reply debate.

I have no objection to the appeal that was made concerning the establishment of a high school. In reply, the speaker did not face up to the problem and emphasise the difficulties confronting the Minister for Education. They were strongly emphasised by the Treasurer, by way of interjection, when he said, "From where am I going to get the money to do this? Do you want me to take it from this department, or that department?" The Minister for Education used that argument during the election campaign when he was answering complaints about the paucity of money being spent on forestry development. He said, "Do you want me to take the money away from the Department of Public Works and from the expansion of schools?" The Minister for Health and Home Affairs would say the same about hospitals.

We have a very serious problem in the way in which this debate has been treated by Government members. It indicates clearly that this Government are not prepared to face up to the Commonwealth

Government and make a determined effort to persuade them to adopt an attitude more in keeping with the generous approach that is adopted for South Australia, and particularly Victoria.

We have had dissertations on tea production, tourism, juvenile delinquency, and drunkenness, and an interesting talk by the Treasurer on the problems of decimal currency.

**Mr. Windsor:** What are you going to talk about?

**Mr. DAVIES:** I have already emphasised certain things and the hon. member will be able to follow me. Only one member of the Government has had the courage to face up to this problem and make some public utterance. He is the Minister for Development, Mines, Main Roads and Electricity, who admitted that every approach to the Commonwealth Government is met with a brush-off. There are several aspects of the debate that can be replied to by speakers on the Government side if they wish to rise.

A cloud of secrecy seems to be shrouding the activities of the Government. Large sums of money are being spent. For instance, £1,186 was spent on preparing what is known as the Bill of Rights. Then there was the electricity report. I believe men were brought from overseas and that they spent much time on it. I am not aware of the facts surrounding the Hytten report on the Railway Department. It has been pigeon-holed and hidden from hon. members. We should have been able to read it. Then there was the statement by the hon. member for Port Curtis about a report on Port Alma and the Gladstone Harbour. That is obviously another report that will not see the light of day.

**Mr. Hanlon:** Government by secrecy.

**Mr. DAVIES:** Yes. The hon. member for Baroona spoke of the Labour and Industry Advisory Board. We will not be told who are the members of that board. I was rather amazed at that. What is the reason for the secrecy? It is hard to understand. We also have the secrecy associated with the removal from office of one of the Ministers of the Crown. He was one of the best debaters the Government had. Possibly it was the result of pressure being brought to bear by grazing interests that he was removed from office.

I do not intend to take up my full time. However, I wish to emphasise particularly one or two points. The Government have failed to win the confidence of the people of this State after their first three years of office, during which they represented a minority. Although they have been returned, they still represent a minority.

I should like to spend some time on a detailed analysis of the number of votes won

by each party. No doubt an hon. member will do that in one of the debates to follow, and it will provide very interesting reading for the people of the State. I said that it was only by the most skilful gerrymandering that the Government were returned, but I must qualify that because Sir Thomas Playford of South Australia, who has proved himself to be the master of gerrymandering over the years, came here in July. There is no doubt, though, that it was through gerrymandering that this Government succeeded in remaining in office on a minority vote.

The Minister for Labour and Industry seems to have changed his attitude towards industrial development. For the first two years after the Government took office we began to feel that some great development was going to take place in cities along the coast but now the Minister is concentrating on tourism. He has come to be regarded more as the Minister for Tourism. I know he is enthusiastic in every way, but hitherto we thought we had in him a Minister for industrial development. The change has come subtly but very noticeably nevertheless. I believe the figures showing the lack of development of the cities along the coast clearly revealed to him that he was up against a brick wall.

We realise the problem. We know that big industries are interested in squeezing out the last penny they can; but, particularly when big industries are given a certain amount of protection in a country calling for development, they must realise that they have responsibilities to the nation and that they should give some thought, even if it means the loss of some profit, to decentralising their efforts throughout the Commonwealth and at least take some notice of governments who do not want to use the totalitarian method of directing them where to establish themselves. In England in the last several years a certain amount of that had to be done to establish industries in the various depressed areas.

But it is good to realise, and to remind ourselves, just how the Government are failing. We know that one of the reasons why they continue as a minority Government is that at the end of last year we had about 900 fewer factory workers in six of the larger towns along the Queensland coast and some twenty-seven fewer factories than there were when Labour went out of office. Possibly the most alarming feature of all—and one would certainly imagine it would make anyone regret he was a member of the Country Party-Liberal Government—is that there are more people going out of the State now than are coming into it. No matter what arguments the Government may advance, the fact remains that the same excuses apply in all other States of the Commonwealth.

Last session I was ridiculed by certain Government hon. members when I warned them that the same state of affairs was com-

ing about as had arisen in 1914. At that time more people were rushing out of the State than were coming into it. That situation exists today. Let us see what was published in 1914 by the anti-Labour newspaper, "The Rockhampton Morning Bulletin," and note how it applies today—

"Though Queensland is one of the emptiest and richest areas in the world, it offers less encouragement to the immigrant than any other self-governing State in the Empire."

On 26 September, 1915, the "Daily Mail"—by no means a Labour paper—referring to the population increase between 1899 and 1912, stated—

"The natural increase of population since 1899 more than accounts for the difference in population figures— The figures made it appear that population is pouring into Queensland but it is, unfortunately, true that it pours out again with notable celerity."

That is what is happening in the State, and it causes alarm to more than the members of the Australian Labour Party. It caused alarm to the editor of "The Courier-Mail," for, on 23 April of this year, he wrote a very interesting article, which I shall read so that it will be placed on record.

The editor said—

"A blue and gold autumn day in Queensland is as close to perfection as weather can be.

On such a day most Queenslanders would be hard put to imagine any better place to live than this State.

Yet this week we were presented with some statistics that were about as encouraging to this viewpoint as a slap in the face with a wet fish."

He continued—

"These statistics showed that, of all Australian States, Queensland was the only one last year to record a net loss in migration."

**Mr. Donald:** And it still continues.

**Mr. DAVIES:** Yes. I will deal with that too.

The editor went on—

"To be precise, 870 more people left us than came here. Even the Northern Territory did better. 'Migration' in this sense means simply movement of people. In other words, the migrants who left this State almost certainly included native-born Queenslanders.

What is wrong? Why can't Queensland hold people when other States are attracting them in thousands?"

Remember all the optimistic statements of the Minister for Labour and Industry and the Premier when fighting the election campaign in 1957!

The editor of the "Courier-Mail" went on to say—and this is most pertinent—

"Obviously good weather and talk about the State's 'potential' (however true) are not enough."

That is what the hon. member for Rockhampton South said before he decided to climb on the bandwagon. He said that the Government was not doing what it should for Central Queensland.

The editor went on to say—

"A recent scholarly survey showed that many of our Italian migrants have to go south to find permanent work.

If this is true of Italians, may it not be also true of many other Queenslanders? Is our relative lack of secondary industry helping to lose us people we need?"

He then said—

"But these figures seem to be an urgent reminder that we have to do much better."

The Government have not succeeded in doing much better.

I also have here an editorial in the Brisbane "Telegraph", and I thought that as these articles were such serious indictments of the Government, someone on the Government benches would have risen in their wrath and denied these statements. During the previous session the Minister made a feeble attempt to explain the situation, but his excuses applied to all States. The editorial in the Brisbane "Telegraph" of 23 August, 1960, said—

"The State Government must find out why migrants come to Queensland but do not stay here."

One would think that a Government claiming to attract capital to this State and that millions of pounds were waiting to pour into Queensland, a Government claiming to handle the finances of the State in a way that would put to shame any Labour Government, a Government claiming to inspire confidence, would have created a clamour that would induce more people to come here than would want to clear out. What have they gained by this ridiculous claptrap of theirs about Socialism and Communism? What have they to say about these statements in editorials in the Brisbane "Telegraph" and "The Courier-Mail?"

The editor of the Brisbane "Telegraph" went on to say—

"Latest figures by the Commonwealth Statistician show that Queensland lost 1,702 more migrants than it gained in the past 12 months.

Substantial gains, almost astronomical by comparison, are reported for other States. South Australia's position, for example, improved by 12,000 during the same period."

He then said—

"It must be remembered that the factors which are claimed as a set-off to Queensland's net loss operate also in other States.

Queensland's population increase must be hampered unless industrial expansion provides work for the thousands of newcomers who have no experience of rural employment and no desire to try it.

The State Government and the local authorities must ask themselves whether they are doing enough to provide the jobs that will keep migrants in the State."

The State Government is not doing enough. Local authorities are making a great effort. They claim they have the jobs to put men into. I am not going to follow their argument through in detail, but I agree with the argument put forward by the local authorities. It is quite stupid to pay out money unnecessarily to men who are prepared to work. Every decent Australian wants to do a job rather than sit back and take money for not working. How much better it would be to use that money to provide work through the local authorities. There is a growing tendency on the part of the Commonwealth Government—and this Government follows in their footsteps—to throw the whole burden on the local authority, and consequently upon the ratepayer. There is no equity of sacrifice in the payment of rates.

The Government have no plans. The Treasurer speaks about the electronic devices that are coming into use in offices. We must plan for the future. If people are to be put out of work because of the use of these devices, what are the Government planning for the future? Are they making plans in co-operation with the Commonwealth Government? There is no possible excuse for the Government when their own political parties are in control of the Federal House. We have only to instance the failure of this Government to realise how important is this subject.

**Government Members** interjected.

**Mr. DAVIES:** I am presenting an important subject. Last year the Premier spoke about the relationship between the State and Federal Governments. They must be prepared to face up to the position. How do the Government discipline members of their own parties if they will not carry out their policy? Apparently Mr. Menzies is not interested in the northern part of Australia. That is evident by his preferential treatment in allocating loan funds to the southern States. It is obvious by the conditions laid down for the loan covering the rehabilitation of the Mt. Isa railway line. We shall have much more to say about these matters in other debates. If Party loyalties prevent the Government from criticising their Federal masters, and they realise their minority in Government in Queensland, why not step

down and let the A.L.P. have control? I emphasise how this Government have failed. Prices have increased tremendously. At least through the last Governor-General's Speech Mr. Menzies did mention that he would commence some form of inquiry into monopolistic practices in this country. Let us hope that the submission of that report takes less time than the report on the dairying industry has taken, and that when it is submitted it will not be shelved like the numerous reports which have been pigeonholed by this Government.

I do not intend to delay the Committee because other hon. members wish to speak. I shall reserve my remarks about—

**Mr. Knox:** How is the A.W.U.? How are the masters of the A.L.P. getting along?

**Mr. DAVIES:** The hon. member has not the decency to get on his feet and protest about the neglect of his State. One of the Ministers did say something in the North during the election campaign about the neglect of this State by the Federal Government.

**Mr. Knox:** What are you protesting against?

**Mr. DAVIES:** I am protesting on behalf of the people of this State. Hon. members on the Government side will not rise and say one word to the advantage of the majority of the people in this State, yet there is no end to the tremendous increases in prices. We hear hon. members speaking at length on decimal currency, the value of the 10s. unit in relation to the value of work in such-and-such a year, or the value in another year, but we hear nothing of the work involved at present in making a comparison following the de-valuation of the present £1.

We have Mr. Holt in his Budget speech saying:

"Prices and costs rose sharply over the last year and so far the rate of increase does not seem to be slackening."

In the Brisbane "Telegraph" of 28 June they stated—

"The problem of rising costs must be tackled vigorously and there must be no suggestion of complacency in the Government's close study.

"Queenslanders are entitled to be told just what is being done to protect their living standards. They will not be satisfied with talk of restricted State powers or with vague assurances that the whole question of price fluctuations is very closely studied by the Government. They want to know what has been done in regard to the increases that have taken place."

Talk and no action! Yet we have the Minister saying, "Let us have free competition, and abolish price control," and "Competition will maintain steady prices."

I shall reserve comments on other matters, including the Arbitration Commission of Inquiry of the Commonwealth Government,

until the debate on the Budget. I refer these matters that I have raised to the Treasurer to explain the statements in the "Brisbane Telegraph" and "The Courier-Mail" that more people are leaving the State than are coming into it, in association with the problem of State and Federal financial relationships, rather than spend time on matters such as new currency.

**Mr. ADAIR** (Cook) (5.9 p.m.): I should like to make a suggestion to the hon. the Treasurer, but in doing so I stress the point that I am speaking only for myself and my own electorate, not for the Queensland Labour Party. I suggest to the Treasurer that he bring down legislation during this session to legalise off-the-course betting. It is a very important matter in my electorate, as I am sure it is in the western and far northern electorates. If extra revenue is wanted, this is one of the avenues from which it can be obtained.

At many outlying places in my electorate, such as Mareeba and Cooktown it is impossible to have a bet. In the metropolitan area, facilities exist for betting. I shall keep on pressing for this until—

**Mr. Smith:** Is it Q.L.P. policy?

**Mr. ADAIR:** No. I am speaking for the people in my electorate who desire this privilege, and I do not see why they should not have it.

Much publicity has been given to the recent fact-finding tour of the North by Federal members, and a great deal has been said about the land in the Tully and Ingham areas. In my electorate from the Daintree River to Bloomfield and right through to Laura some of the best cattle fattening country in the State is to be found. I ask the Minister to visit the area and personally inspect it. The Deputy Premier has bought land there, and I am pleased to know that he has done so. I hope other Ministers follow his example. He bought it because he realised it was the best land of its type in the State.

**Mr. Aikens:** Is it not true that he bought it in partnership with the hon. member for Bundaberg?

**Mr. ADAIR:** I could not say.

I should like the Minister to consider my suggestions when money is available for developmental purposes. Cooktown and its hinterland has been neglected in the allocation of cane assignment. I press the Government to undertake a full investigation into the possibilities of land north of the Daintree River.

**Hon. T. A. HILEY** (Chatsworth—Treasurer and Minister for Housing) (5.12 p.m.), in reply: I have not the time to comment on all of the points of hon. members. Many of them cover matters within the administration of my Cabinet colleagues.

I know the remarks have been recorded and will be studied and dealt with in due course by those Ministers.

I shall reply, however, to two or three points. I listened with considerable interest to the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, whose main complaint was that the Government were not indulging in more deficit finance. He said that Queensland's financial position has not deteriorated, that in fact it has improved, and he then went on to speak in favour of vigorous, venturesome deficit finance. It came as a shock to me when I realised that on the first deliberative day of this Parliament a classic cleavage in the outlook of the Leader of the Opposition and his Deputy was exposed. The Leader of the Opposition left the public of Queensland in no doubt as to his view. He was roundly critical of any deficit in the finances of the State. He had much to say about the relatively small deficit of £165,000.

**Mr. Duggan:** Three in a row.

**Mr. HILEY:** Three in a row. He said—

"It has generally been regarded as a test of good administration for a Government to live within its income. The Country-Liberal Government have failed dismally."

**Mr. Hanlon:** You had unemployment and deficits.

**Mr. HILEY:** Apparently the hon. member's leader did not know there was unemployment in Queensland, because he castigated the Government on the deficit of £165,000. But the Deputy Leader of the Opposition wants bigger and better deficits—the bigger the better.

It is perfectly true that Governments in the same way as people have to learn to live broadly within their income. There is not the slightest doubt about it. I agree entirely with what the Leader of the Opposition said in the course of the Supply debate as recently as October, 1959. These are his words—

"The attitude of the Opposition has been that in times of prosperity there should be a balanced Budget. It is agreed by most economists and those charged with the administration of financial affairs that in times of depression we must use the monetary mechanism to enable the effects of depression to be mitigated as far as possible."

The Government subscribe to that doctrine.

He continued—

"It is not good financial policy to budget for a series of deficits, despite the fact that some other States have thought it desirable to budget for a deficit this year."

**Mr. Duggan:** Your deficits were not actually deficits.

**Mr. HILEY:** All I can say is that the Opposition should make up its mind; it should make up a single mind for its two

most important officers. I quote the Deputy Leader of the Opposition as advocating that we should have access to our liquid funds and go more heavily into revenue deficits.

**Mr. Lloyd:** When did I say this?

**Mr. HILEY:** You advocated a series of bigger and better deficits.

**Mr. Lloyd:** In case of serious unemployment.

**Mr. HILEY:** That is what the hon. member castigated us for not doing.

**Mr. Lloyd:** That was exactly your policy in the last Budget debate; that is, that in times of unemployment there must be deficit budgeting.

**Mr. HILEY:** The hon. member has been making an attack on the Government and saying that we were losing the confidence of the people because we would not enter into bigger and better deficits. He is advocating a raid on the Public Service Superannuation Fund. He is not content that we should invest the money of that fund where it provides useful employment as an investment. He wants us to use it for the deficit finance of the State. All I can say is that talk like that can destroy the whole financial reputation of this State.

**Mr. LLOYD:** I rise to a point of order. I cannot let that statement pass. My remarks concerned only Trust and Special Funds available to the Treasurer. I am afraid I have to point out to the Treasurer that those funds are not available to him. He knows it very well.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order!

**Mr. HILEY:** I suggest that the Deputy Leader of the Opposition study the Public Service Superannuation Fund and find out the position. The only substantial fund in the Trust and Special Funds that is available to the Treasurer is the Public Service Superannuation Fund. That is the only specific money.

**Mr. Lloyd:** They are not included in your balances of cash investments.

**Mr. Walsh:** As long as you pay the interest on it, it is all right.

**Mr. HILEY:** We do. But we are not prepared to use those funds to support our revenue deficit. If we did, it would readily frighten every public servant in the State. And rightly so. Quite plainly the attitude of this Government is that we will not go into a deficit on a short-term basis, in the face of some emergent need. We said quite plainly that we elected to go into deficit in the first two years. We did that to get rid of accumulated reserves, because while they were there we had no hope of getting anything extra from the Commonwealth Government. We deliberately exhausted those funds.

**Mr. Walsh:** We got a lot extra.

**Mr. HILEY:** Of course we got extra. What did the Leader of the Opposition say on that point in the very statement to which I made reference? He said the Government had been saved only by the recently-amended tax reimbursement formula agreed to by the Commonwealth. How did we get the tax formula amended? By deliberately going into deficit and exhausting our reserve funds. Only then did we get this money.

**Mr. Walsh:** You got it on the same basis as the other States.

**Mr. HILEY:** We got the greatest relative increase of any State in the Commonwealth.

**Mr. Walsh:** You have a formula that provides for 100 per cent. of your wage costs. Therefore, the more you employ, the more you get.

**Mr. HILEY:** That formula operates against the basis established on the historical assessment of needs with an uplift in the case of Queensland because what we were getting was not sufficient for our proven needs.

**Mr. Walsh:** Despite the fact that you got over £20,000,000 under all headings, you are still worse off.

**Mr. HILEY:** And we would have been worse than worse off if we had not got the £20,000,000.

**Mr. Walsh:** And you will be in a devil of a mess next year if you do not get a lot more, because your barrel is running dry again.

**Mr. HILEY:** Objection was raised to the Government's policy of building more houses for ownership and fewer for rental.

Objection was raised to the Government's policy of building more houses for ownership and fewer for rental.

**Mr. Mann:** That is Commonwealth policy, anyhow.

**Mr. HILEY:** Never mind about its being Commonwealth policy; it is our policy.

**Mr. Mann:** You have to fall in line with it.

**Mr. HILEY:** No, we have not. We have not had to fall in line with it any more than the hon. member and his colleagues would have had to fall in line with it when they were the Government. We have done it because it is a matter of cold good business. We can build five houses for ownership against four for rental because the money goes further when you build them for ownership. How was it possible for us to parade the fact that we built in Queensland this year no fewer than 9,980 homes?

**Mr. Baxter:** How long have people got to wait to buy a home from the Housing Commission?

**Mr. HILEY:** I will tell the hon member on Tuesday next.

**Mr. Baxter:** I will tell you now—nine months, as a minimum.

**Mr. HILEY:** There are other things you have to wait nine months for, too.

The first great reason for our preference for building homes for ownership is that we want to encourage home ownership for its own sake; the second is that, as a matter of good business, we can in fact build five houses instead of four; and the third—and this is what hon. members opposite do not realise—is that we now have a panel established of 8,000 rental homes and people are constantly going from some of them, so we can get relets coming in to take their places. We do not need to build as many new rental homes because of the relet factor.

**Mr. Lloyd:** Even in Victoria they give to tenants the greater proportion of homes built under the agreement; they sell the minority.

**Mr. HILEY:** That might be so. All I can say is that, while I have it in my power, I will not reduce Queensland to a State favouring State landlordism. I do not want to do it. I do not think that is social progress. I regard as something to bemoan, and to avoid if possible.

**Mr. Lloyd:** It is very little satisfaction to the people who have only a deposit.

**Mr. HILEY:** I know the arguments hon. members opposite put up. I have stated my attitude plainly. It is a policy that we do not want to hide in any way; we are proud of it; we think it is paying off.

**Mr. Hanlon:** It is a cold-blooded policy.

**Mr. HILEY:** It is a policy of social progress. We would have more people in Queensland without a roof over their heads if we stopped building for ownership and built only for rental. We should build 20 per cent. fewer houses. There is only one cure for the Queensland housing shortage. I have said it repeatedly and it is almost trite to say it but still some people will not believe it. The cure is: more houses. Is it not better to build five instead of four?

**Opposition Members** interjected.

**Mr. HILEY:** I get rather browned off upon finding people claiming a rental home from the State and getting it when very often it is found that they are in no way short of funds. Go up to some of our rented houses and see the standard of motor car there for the private enjoyment of the tenants. Go inside their homes and see the comforts they have.

**Mr. Newton:** Do you suggest they should not have those things?

**Mr. HILEY:** No!

**Mr. Newton:** You've got them.

**Mr. HILEY:** They do not demonstrate a need that suggests that the State should provide them with a home as the only course for them. By all means let them have the extras if they can afford them, but do not let them come along and say that only the State can relieve their housing distress. They have it within their own financial capacity to provide a home for themselves if they wish.

**Mr. Walsh:** Anyhow, up till the outbreak of war it was always Labour's policy that people should own their own homes.

**Mr. HILEY:** That was the brightest star in Labour's diadem. I was sorry when they reversed their attitude, and for some extraordinary reason favoured State landlordism. Heavens above, have they lost their pride? Have they lost their self-reliance?

**Mr. Hilton:** Will you peruse the file of correspondence between this State, and the Commonwealth asking for an amendment to the original housing agreement to permit the sale of those homes, and tell us the result? It will be a complete refutation of your statement. I should like you to do that.

**Mr. HILEY:** Let us go on to the other points. The next point that was raised was a complaint that the State Government Insurance Office has lost its monopoly of writing insurance business for State public servants. That is quite true, but let us be clear about it. In the days when Labour's pitiful superannuation scheme was in force and they were denied a decent retirement pension and security for their widows, public servants were forced to take an extraordinary interest in insurance. As the State did not give them an adequate pension scheme, they had to protect the interests of their wives and families by taking out heavy insurance, and it was a rich field in those days. This Government brought in a much more liberal superannuation scheme for public servants, and it became apparent immediately it was introduced that because they now received in superannuation what previously they had been denied, their capacity to pay insurance premiums was lessened—they could not pay their superannuation contributions and still pay the same amount for insurance—and also that the desire died because security was otherwise provided.

At this stage the private companies came to the Government and sought the right that the State Insurance Office enjoyed to enter Government departments and personally canvass public servants. This Government refused their application, but in refusing it the Government thought that they had to be fair about it and that they should not put themselves in the position where they appeared to be unfair by allowing the State Government Insurance Office to do it and refusing to allow others to do it. That is what

was done. It is all nonsense to suggest that this will in any way interfere with the strength of the great State Government Insurance Office, which is going from strength to strength with every passing year. It is over the difficulties of formation; it is over the initial stages when expenses tend to be high because of the small volume of business. It now has a tremendous annual income, and it has the lowest rate of any of the competitive companies. It is able, and has been able for years, to pay bonuses in its fire and accident departments, and to show results in the life department that allow it to hold its head proudly in comparison with any life assurance organisation in Australia, or, for that matter, in the world. It does not need any sheltering or any protection. The State Government Insurance Office is marching ahead from year to year, and this suggestion that its capacity to make moneys available to local authorities will be reduced is not borne out in fact.

**Mr. Lloyd:** Not immediately, but what about the years to come?

**Mr. HILEY:** If we find it has that effect, I will be happy to look into it. All I say to you is this: I think you are a Jeremiah in allowing these hysterical fears to destroy the reputation of a fine office. The State Government Insurance Office does not need this sort of mollicoddling to stand in opposition to other offices in this State.

**Mr. Davies:** It is true that the co-operative housing societies compel members to join a particular insurance company, that they will not allow them to have a choice of companies?

**Mr. HILEY:** I do know that the State Government Insurance Office is putting some money into it, and very rightly it says, "If we are providing some of the funds, we should get some of the business."

**Mr. Davies:** Is it true that the co-operative societies are compelling people to insure with particular insurance companies?

**Mr. HILEY:** It could be. If you like to give me a particular case, I will have a look at it. Do not forget that in some of these mass covers on small deposits the lender likes to get an arrangement that will give him protection against default on the part of the policyholder. In some cases they are lending up to 90 per cent. The insurance is applicable to the money that is loaned, and it is not uncommon for a society to make an arrangement with a single office in terms of which the office says, "Well, if there is some misrepresentation or wrong statement in the claimant's declaration form, we will still protect the loan of the mortgagee." I do know that when Mr. Grimley, the Commissioner, and Mr. McGrath, who is now the general manager of the office, lend money to a co-operative society, the State Government Insurance Office gets all the business on that. That is with my approval, and I think it is perfectly proper.

That statement was made that the low loan allocation was the reason for the net migration loss. It is quite true that we inherited a low loan allocation. We inherited that as one of Labour's worst legacies.

**Mr. Lloyd:** You know the reason for it. Do not exaggerate.

**Mr. HILEY:** I know the reason only too well. In 1937-1938 Queensland got 17.96 per cent. of the borrowing of the whole of Australia—almost 18 per cent. when the State had 15 per cent. of the nation's population. Steadily in succeeding years under Labour the percentage dwindled and dwindled until when we took office it was down to 11.58 per cent.

**Mr. Lloyd:** But you are talking about the war years.

**Mr. HILEY:** Was there not a war in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and West Australia?

**Mr. Lloyd:** They were not garrison States.

**Mr. HILEY:** Had there been Queensland Governments of enterprise and capacity that were prepared to carry out developmental works in those years—as there were in other States—Queensland would not have reached that low percentage of 11.58. We have already improved the percentage. It rose to 11.7, 11.92, and this year it is up to 12 per cent., the highest it has been since 1950-1951. We are steadily climbing back.

Hon. members opposite attack our policy of building houses for sale rather than for rental. Let me remind them that when we sell houses the repayments of the purchase price go back into the Loan Fund so that we can re-spend that money. It builds our net loan expenditure under the formula and increases our percentage. When we spend the money on rental houses we get no repayments; we spend our loan money once and that is the end of it. The concentration on building houses for purchase is in itself an important factor in helping to re-build the net loan allocation that was lost in the tragic years of Labour.

**Mr. Lloyd:** You mean you make a profit?

**Mr. HILEY:** Make a profit! The hon. member apparently needs some help.

**Mr. Lloyd:** I need some help, all right.

**Mr. HILEY:** We loan the purchaser of a worker's dwelling £2,500. He pays us interest which covers our interest on the money, but we make no profit on it. The purchaser also starts to repay the principal. As he repays the principal it accumulates in our funds and thus we are able to lend that repaid principal and in that way we get a duplicated use of the money.

**Mr. Lloyd:** Don't you pay the Commonwealth Government anything?

**Mr. HILEY:** We do, but not at the same rate. The hon. member knows the sinking fund rate—53 years is the term with the Commonwealth Government. If we carry on with our policy long enough, in 20 years' time I think we shall be able to succeed progressively in repairing the damage done by Labour in the 10 years before we took office.

**Mr. Walsh:** The percentages you quoted are the governmental loan works allocations?

**Mr. HILEY:** That is right.

**Mr. Walsh:** What would be the position if you combined semi-government, local authorities and the States, and applied it to all States?

**Mr. HILEY:** I have not got those figures in front of me. I will give them to the hon. member.

**Mr. Walsh:** You know that in South Australia water supply and sewerage works come under the loan allocation?

**Mr. HILEY:** Because they are so richly treated.

**Mr. Walsh:** They do not here.

**Mr. HILEY:** That is right.

**Mr. Walsh:** Therefore your dissection is not a true reflection of the position.

**Mr. HILEY:** All I know is that they get £2 per capita for every £1 we get.

**Mr. Walsh:** But it does not include semi-government or local authority loans.

**Mr. HILEY:** No. This year in our total borrowings we got £26,230,000 for the loan programme as against £24,560,000 last year. It compares with £23,160,000 the year before last and £22,000,000 in the year in which we came into office, when the figure was fixed by a Labour Government.

**Mr. Walsh:** Altered according to increased costs, how does it work out?

**Mr. HILEY:** I should think it barely keeps pace with it. The hon. member for Townsville South had something to say on the problem of housing. Let me say this to him—

**Mr. Hilton:** Shades of other days!

**Mr. HILEY:** Yes, except that this does not drag on.

The company of which he made mention—and I am sorry he mentioned the name because its affairs are at quite a critical stage; meetings of creditors are being held and it makes it hard. But, phrased in the way it has been, I must say something.

The company did carry out contracts for us at Tully, and the inspectors of the Housing Commission tell me their work there was quite satisfactory.

**Mr. Aikens:** They left a lot of rubber cheques around the area.

**Mr. HILEY:** That may be, but that did not touch the Housing Commission. The

next contract they got was at Garbutt and very soon we found that the quality of their work had fallen off. Our inspectors were faced with the task that competent inspectors have to do in such a case. They had to drag them into line. I do not think the hon. member for Townsville South suggested that the inspectors were dilatory.

**Mr. Aikens:** I did not suggest that at all.

**Mr. HILEY:** No.

**Mr. Newton:** Labour only was calculated.

**Mr. HILEY:** It was a labour-only contract let by the Commission?

**Mr. Newton:** No, not by the Commission but by the contractor. The same thing is going on in the metropolitan area.

**Mr. HILEY:** If we have cases of contracts for labour only, we do not approve of it and will not approve of it. If cases like that are brought to my notice, I shall deal with them.

**Mr. Newton:** When the Labour Party were in power they did not get another contract.

**Mr. HILEY:** And they will not get another one now, either. I expect a contractor to be allowed to hire his plumber and drainer, but when it comes to the main construction of a wooden house I expect the main contractor to have his own team of builders on the job.

The hon. member for Townsville South said that the Housing Commission undertook to pay all wages and make some other payments. All I can say is that whenever we strike a contractor who appears to be in a jam, one of the first things we do is to make sure that the men who are working there are not frightened away so that he loses what skilled labour he has. We take the attitude that we will always protect the men on the job, and one practical way to do that is to assist the contractor to continue with the work. What will a labourer do if he is not paid on Friday? He packs his tools and does not come back to the job on Monday.

**Mr. Burrows:** He could not go home and face Mum on Friday.

**Mr. HILEY:** And he would not face Mum on Monday night if he was silly enough to go back to the job on Monday, and I do not blame him.

It is quite true that we approached a firm of accountants in Townsville to keep the affairs of the company under supervision, but the company will not be allowed to continue with the contract at Winton. They were the lowest tenderers there but although we have difficulty in getting contractors at Winton we were not prepared to let them finish the job. Another contractor will do that.

We are watching the Garbutt contract very closely. If we can nurse him through, we

will; if we cannot and he breaks down, we will then have to get somebody else to finish it or make some other arrangements.

**Mr. Aikens:** Will all the extra costs as a result of this action be placed on the price of the house and have to be paid for by the buyer?

**Mr. HILEY:** I shall make a forthright declaration on that. I want to assure the Committee that no purchaser will have to pay more, either to us or the contractor, to get the job finished. We made a contract with this man and induced people to pay deposits on homes to be purchased by them at a certain price. The purchasers will get from the Housing Commission what they expect to get.

I have spoken to the Chief Inspector of the Commission, Mr. Houghton. I have watched his work for the past three years. He would be well known to the hon. member for Carnarvon who at one time administered the Housing Commission. Houghton impressed me as a coldly impartial, efficient officer. On a few occasions I have gone on inspections with him. He is completely decisive and does not indulge in any humbug. The work has to be right before Houghton will pass it. If it is not right, he will say so, just as he will say if it is right.

Hon. members who served in the last Parliament will remember that we had to dismiss the gang that was constructing house stumps at Mt. Gravatt. I went out with Houghton on an inspection of that work. The officer in charge of the project was defending the work, but it was slovenly, shocking work.

**Mr. Newton:** Only because of the material supplied. You cannot make good stumps if you are only getting x-gravel.

**Mr. HILEY:** A lot more than that was involved. The workmanship was shocking. For example, the reinforcing rods were showing on the outside of the mouldings.

**Mr. Newton:** That would not be the fault of the foreman. It must have been the fault of the inspectors.

**Mr. HILEY:** I suppose he put in the reinforcing rods in that way! The officer in charge of the project was defending the work. Houghton went out and inspected it. I said to him, "Would you pass this?" and he said, "I would not." I said, "Should these have been detectable by a competent man during the process," and he replied, "Unquestionably." On other occasions he has defended the quality of other work, and has given me the reason for doing so. I have mentioned these things, for the reason that Houghton has assured me that the troubles and faults found in these houses are capable of being overcome.

**Mr. Aikens:** At Garbutt.

**Mr. HILEY:** At Garbutt. They are all capable of being cured, and Houghton assures me that the purchasers will not get inferior houses.

**Mr. Aikens:** At an increased cost?

**Mr. HILEY:** At no increased cost. I thought I should speak more fully and bluntly on the subject, in view of the way in which the hon. member for Townsville South dealt with it.

**Mr. Aikens:** And do not forget that the buyers will be very glad to have your assurance.

**Mr. HILEY:** They are entitled to it, and that is why I have given it.

There are other points on which I should like to comment, but as hon. members would not wish to re-assemble after dinner I have confined my remarks to the main matters that exercised my mind. If hon. members are concerned about some of the other points they have raised, I suggest that it may be possible to deal with them by way of questions or in debate on another occasion.

Motion (Mr. Hiley) agreed to.

Resolution reported, received, and agreed to.

## WAYS AND MEANS

### COMMITTEE

VOTE OF CREDIT, £53,000,000

(Mr. Dewar, Wavell, in the chair.)

**Hon. T. A. HILEY** (Chatsworth—Treasurer and Minister for Housing): I move—

"(a) That, towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty, on account, for the service of the year 1960-1961, a further sum not exceeding £25,000,000 be granted out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of Queensland exclusive of the moneys standing to the credit of the Loan Fund Account.

"(b) That, towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty, on account, for the service of the year 1960-1961, a further sum not exceeding £18,000,000 be granted from the Trust and Special Funds.

"(c) That, towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty, on account, for the service of the year 1960-1961, a further sum not exceeding £10,000,000 be granted from the moneys standing to the credit of the Loan Fund Account."

Motion agreed to.

Resolutions reported, received, and agreed to.

## APPROPRIATION BILL No. 1

### ALL STAGES

A Bill founded on the Resolutions was introduced and passed through all its stages without amendment or debate.

The House adjourned at 5.53 p.m.